

The SPORTS PINK

55p

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CHERRIES MAINTAIN PROMOTION PLACE

Bournemouth v Ipswich match report - see page 35



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BUILT TO LAST



Ron hails Saints structure in wake of Mitchell exit



See pages 2-3

COOL IT

Koeman reckons Villa boss should worry about his own team rather than continuing Saints spat



SOUNDED OFF: Paul Lambert.

Adam Leitch

adam.leitch@dailyecho.co.uk

CHIEF SPORTS REPORTER

RONALD Koeman believes that Aston Villa manager Paul Lambert will have bigger problems to worry about than continuing a spat with him when the pair go head-to-head at Villa Park on Monday night.

Lambert sounded off in the summer over what he believed were public overtures from Koeman towards his centre half Ron Vlaar, accusing the Saints boss of 'disrespecting'.

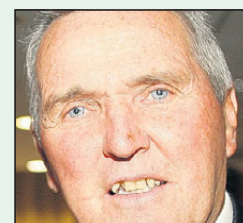
It was an odd incident as it appeared that the comments from Koeman were not quite as strong as they were interpreted at Villa Park however, and Koeman isn't expecting a frosty reception on Monday night as he thinks Lambert will have more to worry about than that.

■ Continued on page 3



KEEPING HIS COOL: Ronald Koeman.

SAINTS



Exclusive Terry Paine column

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SAINTS



The stats behind Saints' success

See pages 14-15

NON-LEAGUE



Derby success for Eastleigh

See page 17

HOCKEY

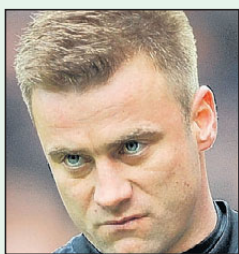


Romsey HC mini tournament

See pages 40-41

WIN £14,000 WITH FIND THE BALL - SEE PAGE 16

Saints Spotlight



Howe hails Boruc impact

MANAGER Eddie Howe has praised loan goalkeeper Artur Boruc for his part in Cherries' rise to the upper reaches of the Championship.

Boruc's arrival from Southampton in September coincided with the start of a run which has propelled Cherries from 15th to second, writes NEIL PERRETT.

The 34-year-old Polish international, above, has kept six clean sheets in nine appearances in the league ahead of today's home game with Ipswich and has been beaten on just four occasions.

Boruc, who lined up in Poland's 2-2 draw with Switzerland in a friendly on Tuesday, chalked up another shutout in the League Cup third round win at Cardiff.

The giant stopper kept 14 clean sheets in 29 games in the Premier League last season and is set to remain with Cherries at least until January.

Howe told the *Daily Echo*: "Artur has been outstanding ever since he came in. He has made some top saves and is an excellent goalkeeper."

"His training time with us has been very limited due to the number of games we have had and the fact he has been away twice on international duty."

"But he has fitted in very well and is popular with the other members of the squad. I can't speak highly enough of him."

● Cherries spotlight – see page 35.

KOEMAN: WHY WE'RE

Ron hails backroom team in wake of Poch raid for Mitchell

RONALD Koeman is far more relaxed about the departure of Paul Mitchell than the outside world seem to be. Indeed, the Saints manager believes it is a sign of the club's strength that Tottenham are looking to poach staff rather than players from St Mary's.

Mitchell, the club's head of recruitment for the last three years, has handed in his notice and is expected to join up with Mauricio Pochettino at White Hart Lane, with the story having received an unexpected blaze of publicity.

Koeman does rate Mitchell, pictured below, highly, but believes the move merely shows how right the club are getting things behind the scenes.

"What Southampton is doing the last four or five years is working from a very good structure in the club with a strong academy, with good young players, with a technical director, Les Reed, in the club for the long term," said Koeman.

"That's one of the qualities of the club because it's seriously a good structure and it's a pleasure to work in that."

"It's a compliment for us that for example Tottenham is not trying to buy football players but trying to buy scouting people."

"That's a compliment for us because that means maybe we have a better structure than they have."

Speaking of Mitchell he added: "We like to keep everybody in the club because Mitch did a great job in the club but we understand on one side his decision because it's football, it's always changing people in the club."

"Southampton is not depending on one person and we will bring in

a good one to continue with our philosophy and good luck to Paul in Tottenham.

"He was important in that (last summer when Saints signed the likes of Graziano Pelle and Dusan Tadic) because they had already a good scouting list and we had to change a lot in our team.

"We had good contact about that with Les Reed, Paul Mitchell and myself and we took the decision to buy the players we bought this season.

"It was successful because we work



COMPLIMENT: Saints boss Ronald Koeman takes it as a compliment that Mauricio Pochettino, inset, wants Paul Mitchell to join Spurs.

Adam Leitch

adam.leitch@dailyecho.co.uk

CHIEF SPORTS REPORTER

together.

"When I heard about the rumours because it's a difficult time now until the transfer deadline in January but the final decision is of the board of the club."

"They agree with Paul Mitchell about leaving the club, but what I said before, Southampton is not depending on one person."

With or without Mitchell, there is inevitably talk starting to take place around the corridors of St Mary's about the January transfer window.

Saints are not expected to be particularly active, and Koeman admits if they do dip into the transfer market it will be a late decision based on a number of factors.

He explained: "It doesn't depend on winning or losing of the next month, it depends on the players that we

"Southampton is not depending on one person"

have and we know that (Sadio) Mane has to play Africa Cup, Maya Yoshida will play Asia Cup.

"We don't need a lot of players because I am happy about the players that we have."

"Maybe it depends on injuries that you need somebody to bring in but it's too early to make conclusions about that."

Saints are the talk of the foot-

TODAY'S PREMIER LEAGUE ACTION - PAGES 4-5

Saints Spotlight



BETTER THAN SPURS



NO RUSH: Ronald Koeman says it is too early to decide on January transfer window moves despite losing Sadio Mane, pictured, to African Cup of Nations duty in the new year.

balling world right now after their amazing start to the season.

Regardless of what happens elsewhere over the weekend or in their Monday night fixture away to Aston Villa, Saints will still be second in the Premier League table when they welcome Manchester City to St Mary's next weekend.

It's been an incredible journey from a summer that started with such turmoil to see a side now playing attractive and winning football having gelled together so quickly.

"In my opinion that has to be my job," said Koeman, whose appointment was a key moment.

"In the beginning it was difficult with all the changes but the most important is to have a good spirit in the team.

"You can talk about practical

things, about the way of playing, but the most important is the squad and they showed from the beginning a great ambition to be successful.

"Important was the first game, Liverpool away, because maybe some people were a little bit afraid about the situation of Southampton.

"We played well, didn't have the result, but we are playing good football and that is very enjoyable for the players.

"The training sessions are a little bit different from the past but that is normal with a new coach and new ideas.

"We are winning games and the most important is the players know we have to go game to game.

"It is still the beginning of the season. We have 11 games and 25 points, last season they had 22 points from 11 games and that was also a very good start to the season.

"They had five points in the last nine games and that is a big difference.

"I spoke about that (on Friday) because it was the first time we had everybody in for the sessions and we know about a tough programme until the beginning of January but that is for everybody and we have a little more time because we play on Monday."

Saints are certainly grabbing headlines for how well they are being run

away from the pitch these days as well as their exploits on it.

It's something that Koeman has very much bought into.

"We are growing as a club and we are doing well and the people are enjoying watching Southampton and that's an important thing because that's one of the philosophies of the club - to play attractive, good attacking football and that brings points and winning games and that's the best way to play football," he said.

"But still we have played 11 games and now we can show until January but we like to show until the end of the season that we have a strong team and it's difficult to beat Southampton.

"I'm sure it's difficult to beat us and that's the challenge for the rest of the teams."

Saints have certainly not been harmed by their great start which has added belief and confidence to the fans as well as the newly assembled squad.

"It's always more easier to continue when the start of the season is good, is positive, because the belief that the players have is important to win games," reflected Koeman.

"In my opinion the most important is that we keep the way of playing away or at home, against Liverpool or Man City, it has to be the same.

"That brings qualities and we work on the pitch every day.

"We don't play European cup football and we have enough training sessions to develop individual players and the whole team."

Saints' progress domestically has also been recognised on a global level with another 15 international call-ups over the last break, and debuts for their countries for Jose Fonte and Nathaniel Clyne.

Indeed, if Steven Davis and Morgan Schneiderlin recover from injuries in time to face Villa on Monday, Saints could field an entire team of senior international footballers.

"A good opportunity," smiled Koeman.

"I don't think about those things because that's not important in my opinion.

"I choose the best team for Aston Villa and not the best international.

"We have our way of playing and we analyse our opponent like always and then we make what's in our opinion the best team to start and not those kind of things.

"Everybody is coming back and in all the international calls nobody was disappointed.

"We are very proud Jose made his debut for Portugal, Clyne had a great performance in both games for England and that gives more confidence to the player and to play good football you need confidence."

And Saints are certainly not a club short of confidence these days.



RON VLAAR

Cool it

■ From front page

"It's so easy that situation," he explained.

"I spoke one time to a Dutch journalist about Vlaar and nothing more.

"If the manager of Aston Villa likes to take that as a big problem that's his problem and not my problem.

PROBLEMS

"I think they have bigger problems to think about."

Saints are keen to continue winning ways after the international break and to continue to keep piling up the points that have taken them to second in the Premier League table.

"Of course we would like to continue up in the table but it's not the issue for us," said Koeman.

"The issue is that we play to our qualities and then the possibility that you keep your position up in the table is more higher than normal.

"We know about the problem that we will have but everybody knows every game in the Premier League is a difficult game.

"Maybe Monday is more difficult than to play Man City at home, you never know because it's football.

"We work game to game and we will see."

TADIC RISE NO SURPRISE TO THOSE IN THE KNOW - P6-7

COMMENT ONLINE
dailyecho.co.uk

Premiership Spotlight



AIR TIME: Newcastle's Massadio Haidara, right, against QPR.

Magpies bag six in a row

NEWCASTLE 1 QPR 0

MOUSSA Sissoko fired Newcastle to a sixth successive victory to extend QPR's dismal run on the road.

The Frenchman won it 12 minutes from time and left the visitors still without a single Barclays Premier League point away from home.

However, there was heartache for Newcastle's Ryan Taylor, starting his first Premier League game in 993 days, when he limped off in tears after just 34 minutes.

Sadly for the 30-year-old his afternoon was to last barely half an hour as he departed after going to ground in some discomfort with all the indications suggesting yet another knee problem.

But inside the 34 minutes for which he was on the pitch, it was he who had looked the most likely man to break the deadlock, prompting the home side forward and arriving late into the box to apply the finishing touch to a series of moves.

Unfortunately for him, he was unable to take either of the two gilt-edged opportunities which fell his way as Green tipped his curling 17th-minute shot over and then claimed his side-footed effort after Ayoze Perez and Cabella had set him up following full-back Yun Suk-young's misplaced pass.

Both sides had penalty appeals rightly waved away by referee Chris Foy after Massadio Haidara went down under Sandro's challenge and Leroy Fer under Mike Williamson's. However, Taylor's premature departure changed the game with the visitors sensing their chance and with Barton making an impact, they pressed the Magpies back.

Striker Charlie Austin failed to test keeper Tim Krul unduly three minutes before the break, although the Holland international had to be on his toes on the stroke of half-time to keep out defender Richard Dunne's looping header from a Barton corner.

Newcastle returned in determined mood with Sammy Ameobi and Cabella running at the QPR defence at every opportunity and meeting less than composed resistance, although Barton threw himself into the path of Ameobi's well-struck 48th-minute volley.

At the other end, Austin scuffed a left-footed effort on the full straight to Krul, but the traffic remained largely in the other direction, although with Green untested until he had to race from his line and block Perez's shot with his chest after Sissoko had played the youngster in with 57 minutes gone.

The keeper was fortunate to escape when he spilled Haidara's driven near-post cross three minutes later and was grateful to see Ameobi head wide as he arrived at pace to meet substitute Yoan Gouffran's 63rd-minute cross.

But the visitors were not content to defend and striker Bobby Zamora, who had earlier headed wide, had Krul back-peddling anxiously with another effort from Karl Henry's 66th-minute cross.

Substitute Niko Kranjcar, who had replaced the injured Sandro on the hour, gave QPR fresh impetus but the home side still looked the more likely to score, with Perez testing Green once again with a first-time shot from Gouffran's 74th-minute cross.

But the stalemate was finally broken 12 minutes from time when Sissoko turned on Ameobi's pass to fire unerringly past Green.

CHELSEA EXTEND

CHELSEA 2 WEST BROM 0

CHELSEA'S title charge shows no signs of abating, with West Brom the latest side swatted away by Jose Mourinho's men.

West Brom were the Blues' latest victims, with first-half goals from Diego Costa and Eden Hazard securing Chelsea a victory that was far more dominant than the 2-0 scoreline suggests.

It was their sixth straight league win this season at Stamford Bridge - which was far more atmospheric than the last outing against QPR - and a result saw the Blues extend their lead over Saints at the top of the table to seven points.

It did not take long for Costa to open the scoring here, with the striker, now fully-fit after various niggles, impressively notching his 11th goal in just 10 league matches after offside calls were ignored.

Hazard extended the Blues' lead soon after with a fizzing strike which took a slight deflection as it beat the otherwise excellent Ben Foster, whose goal always looked likely to be breached further when Claudio Yacob was given a straight red card.

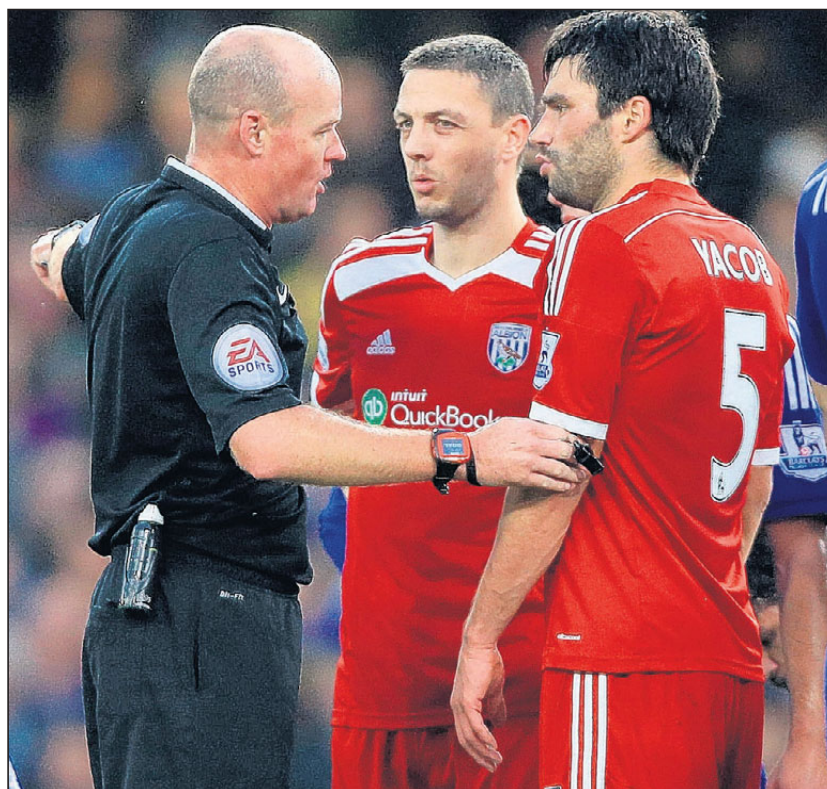
The Argentinian midfielder's reckless 29th-minute challenge on Costa forced Albion into damage limitation mode and impressively they pulled it off, preventing Chelsea from causing any more damage.

It was one-way traffic from the outset and Mourinho's side would have taken the lead inside five minutes was it not for Foster impressively preventing John Terry from turning home a low Hazard cross.

The league leaders would not have to wait long to make the breakthrough, though. Neat team play saw Oscar float the ball to unmarked Costa, who impressively controlled with his chest and struck a right-footed volley past Foster.

There were shades of offside about the Spaniard's latest goal but it stood nonetheless as the hosts' dominance continued, with Foster doing well to smother Costa after saving Oscar's initial effort.

Hazard was, as always, proving a nuisance, wriggling free only to see his shot



SEEING RED: West Bromwich Albion's Claudio Yacob is given his marching orders by referee Lee Mason.

blocked by Andre Wisdom, before Gary Cahill struck wide and Costa stabbed an early Branislav Ivanovic cross just wide.

The second goal looked inevitable and so it proved, arriving in the 25th minute. Oscar played an intelligent short corner to Hazard, with the Belgian jinking free before unleashing a fizzing strike that snuck past Foster via a slight deflection off Craig Gardner.

As if being 2-0 down to the league leaders

was not tough enough, the Baggies were reduced to 10 men just before the half-hour mark.

Yacob, making his first league start of the campaign, launched into a heavy, two-footed challenge on Costa just outside the box.

The Argentinian got the ball but referee Lee Mason deemed the challenge reckless and dished out a straight red card to the perplexed midfielder.

Oscar wasted the free-kick which followed

OSMAN CELEBRATES LANDMARK IN STYLE

EVERTON 2 WEST HAM 1

EVERTON midfielder Leon Osman picked the perfect way to mark his 400th appearance for the club as his first league goal since March ended high-flying West Ham's five-match unbeaten run.

The 33-year-old, who in reaching the landmark joined an elite group of a dozen others led by the great Neville Southall, capped a controlled and creative performance with the winner 17 minutes from time.

His intervention prevented his side from squandering another lead this season after substitute Mauro Zarate cancelled out Romelu Lukaku's controversial goal.



OPENER: Romelu Lukaku puts Everton ahead against West Ham.

TODAY'S FOOTBALL LEAGUE RESULTS/TABLES - SEE BACK PAGE

Premiership Spotlight

LEAD OVER SAINTS



SAVE: Chelsea's Diego Costa is thwarted by West Bromwich Albion's Ben Foster.

but Chelsea continued to press, with an exquisite Cesc Fabregas pass looking set to give Chelsea a third, only for the move to end when Cesar Azpilicueta was thwarted by Graham Dorrans.

Nemanja Matic had a low strike from distance and Foster did well to deny Hazard as half-time approached, while Oscar and Ivanovic had penalty appeals rejected as the onslaught continued.

Half-time will have no doubt been a wel-

come respite to Alan Irvine's side, who continued on the back foot when play resumed.

Matic volleyed over from close range having all too easily got behind the West Brom defence minutes after the restart, with Foster producing another fine save to deny Terry - a chance which would not have counted anyway as the Chelsea captain had been flagged for a foul.

West Brom were now sitting back and soaking up pressure, with the hosts domi-

nating possession but struggling to recreate their first-half fluidity.

Hazard was denied by the outrushing Foster when put through by Fabregas as the home side continued to hunt out another goal.

Costa, shortly after being caught by Craig Dawson, was replaced by Didier Drogba for the closing stages, yet even his introduction, along with that of Loic Remy and Ramires, was unable to help Chelsea grab what have been a deserved third.

FOXES GO 500 MINUTES WITHOUT SCORING

Leicester's goalless streak continued after they held Sunderland to a 0-0 draw at the King Power Stadium.

The Foxes extended their goal drought to 500 minutes - and have now not netted in their last five games.

A tight match had few clear chances but Kasper Schmeichel produced two fine first-half saves to thwart Steven Fletcher and Adam Johnson while Costel Pantilimon saved well from Matty James.

Riyad Mahrez went close for the hosts but they have now failed to score since drawing with Burnley last month.

Paul Konchesky and Mahrez returned for Leicester, replacing Danny Drinkwater and Andy King.

Jeff Schlupp moved to left wing to accommodate Konchesky with the Foxes desperate to

LEICESTER 0 SUNDERLAND 0

create chances for five-goal top scorer Leonardo Ulloa.

Lee Cattermole came in for Liam Bridcutt after suspension for the Black Cats, who were immediately on the defensive when Wes Brown let Anthony Revellere's pass under his foot to allow Jamie Vardy to run through but Pantilimon quickly forced the striker wide.

But the Black Cats almost stole the lead on 23 minutes when Johnson's cute flick put Fletcher through - only for Schmeichel to block superbly.

The keeper then turned Johnson's low effort wide following Seb Larsson's quick free kick.

The Foxes had to rely on Wes Morgan to keep them level when he threw himself in front of Larsson's drive 10 minutes before the break.

Fletcher skied over immediately following the re-start as Sunderland underlined their greater goal threat.

Pantilimon, though, had to deny James five minutes into the second half when he beat away his 12-yard drive.

It was still a rare opening for the hosts - one which boss Nigel Pearson had implored them to take before the game.

The lively Mahrez was the hosts' best outlet and he wanted a penalty when he went down under Revellere's clumsy challenge, but his protests were rejected.

James tested Pantilimon from 20-yards as the Foxes goal struggles continued before Schmeichel saved from Fletcher at his near post with 22 minutes left.

Mahrez hit the side netting but any chances dried up as Leicester's goal hunt goes on.



BOXED IN: Leicester's Leonardo Ulloa, left, and Anthony Revellere battle for the ball.



CLOSE COMBAT: Stoke City's Victor Moses, left, and Burnley's Kieran Trippier.

Ings double lifts Burnley

STOKE 1 BURNLEY 2

BURNLEY'S resurgence continued as a quickfire brace early on from Danny Ings secured a 2-1 win at Stoke that took the Claret's off the bottom of the Barclays Premier League table.

Sean Dyche's men had claimed their first victory of the season in their last outing by defeating Hull 1-0 at home, and they looked determined from the off to add three more points at the Britannia Stadium, with striker Ings taking advantage of sloppy play from the Potters to tuck in from close range in the 12th and 13th minutes.

Jonathan Walters pulled a goal back for the home side in the 32nd minute and Burnley had to withstand plenty of pressure as the game continued.

But they held out for a triumph that sees them rise to 18th in the table.

Ings' brace marked a continuation of momentum for the player, who had netted twice for England Under-21s at his home ground Turf Moor during the international break.

But it was notable as well, as Burnley's top-scorer from their 2013/14 promotion campaign notched his second and third goals for them this term, that Stoke - without injured duo Marc Wilson and Erik Pieters in defence - had provided him with a significant helping hand for each goal.

First, Pieters' replacement Marc Muniesa lost the ball and in the move that followed, Asmir Begovic's parry from Ashley Barnes' cross teed Ings up nicely for a slotted finish.

Then, just over a minute and a half later, Burnley's former Stoke man Michael Kightly got the better of Phil Bardsley and had the space to burst forward down the left and cross to an unmarked Ings, who once again despatched the chance.

Stoke then began to get into the game, with the lively Bojan Krkic having a shot deflect wide. Soon after, the Spaniard provided the delivery which Walters converted with a diving header, goalkeeper Tom Heaton getting a hand to the effort but unable to keep it out.

Victor Moses - he of the recent diving "cheat" accusations from Swansea boss Garry Monk - then had penalty claims waved away after going down in the box in a questionable-looking manner, before curling in a shot that Heaton palmed away.

Stoke's quest for an equaliser continued after the break as Moses skewed wide, Mame Biram Diouf just failed to meet a delightful Bojan cross properly with his head, and referee Martin Atkinson dismissed Potters claims that Kieran Trippier had handballed in the box.

Moses then departed the field clutching his thigh, Marko Arnautovic coming on in his place, before Steven Nzonzi sent the ball over Heaton's bar from a cut-back to the edge of the area.

While Mark Hughes looked convinced Burnley were taking every opportunity to eat up more minutes, he will also have been frustrated by his own side's further exertions not yielding a goal, with a couple of attempts from substitute Charlie Adam proving unsuccessful.

The Claret's held firm with some brave defending and might have even scored a third goal during the closing stages as Begovic denied substitute Lukas Jutkiewicz.

MAN CITY CLOSE GAP TO SAINTS - SEE PAGE 20

BOOK of the WEEK

The Road to Nowhere
A Journey Through Boxing's
Wastelands

By Tris Dixon

Sportsbookofthemoth.com price:
£16.99

GIVEN the alternatives available nowadays, most readers insist upon a book's opening being immediately captivating. It's a must if authors want people to get past their first, carefully-crafted half dozen introductory pages, otherwise the book is likely to be jettisoned in favour of something else.

Your reviewer was on page 27 of The Road to Nowhere before realising that Tris Dixon had successfully captured my attention. This book is that good.

Arriving in New York from England after selling his car, a transaction which just about cleared his overdraft, Dixon sets out, initially as an 'average' boxer (his description) intent on staying Stateside for six months, with plans to learn from the fight game's very best.

In his first few months in the Catskill Mountains in upstate New York, he trains, spars, sleeps rough on several occasions (money – or the lack of it – is a constant theme), finds a dogsbody job at an Italian resort and boxes for Kevin Rooney, Mike Tyson's old trainer.

When the experience fails to produce a satisfactory ending, Dixon moves to Atlantic City. He admits to "really needing a result", whereupon he is offered the opportunity to interview Micky Ward on behalf of Boxing News. After making a return Greyhound bus journey to Boston and filing his copy, which clearly pleases the magazine's editor, the wannabe boxer is transformed into a writer and so Dixon's new journey begins.

What follows is a boxing odyssey, an often warm, sometimes terrifying, always compelling voyage which takes the author from Rocky Castellani in Atlantic City to Marvin Johnson in Indianapolis, as well as dozens of memorable places – and names – in between. Armed with what he calls a "stalker-like resolve", Dixon successfully tracks down and meets a long list of forgotten boxers, including former world champions.

Some are successful, others washed up. Some have invested wisely, others must continue working for a living.

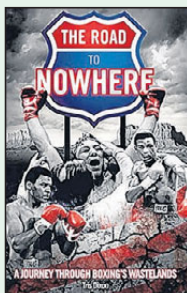
"That's always been a problem for fighters," writes Dixon, "that when they are so immersed in boxing they never give life after the sport a second thought; not out of carelessness but because they are so fixated on the immediate goal they do not look beyond it for fear of losing focus."

Dixon's obvious love for, and fixation with, the noble art is evident throughout this outstanding work.

We've teamed up with Sports Book of the Month & have a copy of The Road to Nowhere to give away.

To win this week's sports book, go to their website (www.sports-bookofthemoth.com) and answer the following question:

What year did Marvin Johnson compete at the Olympic Games?



Saints Spotlight

RISE TO STARDOM OF SAINTS STAR TADIC

RISE OF THE BOY WONDER TADIC

DUSAN Tadic has already emerged as one of the best summer 2014 signings made by a Premier League club.

The Serbian international was top of the assists league in the Dutch League last season, with 14, and was one of the Eredivisie's top scorers as well with 16 strikes.

Tadic has already contributed six assists in Saints' sensational start to the top flight season, including four in the 8-0 rout of Sunderland.

Only two other Premier League players have provided more assists – Cesc Fabregas of Chelsea (9) and Swansea's Gylfi Sigurdsson (7).

But Tadic is out on his own when it comes to creating chances for his teammates – leading the Premier League list with 35.

His successes in England might have taken some pundits by surprise, but one man who is not at all amazed is **MICHEL JONGSMA**.

The Dutchman has been a regular contributor to Dutch football websites in recent years and has followed Tadic's career closely.

Here, he gives Saints fans an intriguing insight into Tadic's background.

FOR many in England, Dusan Tadic arrived at Southampton as an unknown entity.

And one can imagine a 25-year-old winger from Serbia who spent four years in the Eredivisie does not sound like something to get overly excited about.

Tadic lacks the dashing looks of Graziano Pellè and had no formidable national team performance at Wembley carrying his reputation, as was the case with Dane Christian Eriksen last season.

Nonetheless, it has only taken the left-footed wizard a handful of Premier League games to establish his name in the English top tier.

After a very respectable three assists in his first seven league outings, Tadic exploded into action against Sunderland, becoming only the sixth player ever to deliver four assists in one Premier League match and also scoring a goal.

IDENTIFIED

Those who had witnessed the tricky left-footer in the Eredivisie were at a loss to explain why he was not identified by a big club before.

From his debut for Vojvodina Novi Sad, until his departure to the Dutch League, the youngster had impressed.

After three seasons at Vojvodina in the Serbian Superliga, the then 21-year-old Tadic decided it was time to move on.

With bigger clubs interested (there was interest from Spain, Germany, Italy, France and Russia), Tadic decided to join FC Groningen, a club renowned for developing the talents of Arjen Robben, Luis Suarez and, coincidentally, also Ronald and Erwin Koeman.

His first performance for the club in 2010 was a remarkable

one. In the season opener against Ajax, Tadic was instrumental in a fightback from 0-2 down as he gave the assist for the 2-2 equaliser.

Then World Cup runner-up Gregory van der Wiel was given a run-around, with many blaming fatigue.

In the games following, it became apparent it was more due

to Tadic's quality. With striker Matavz as his finisher and left back Fredrik Stenman as his legs and muscle, Tadic quickly became the fulcrum of the team.

MESSI

He ended the season on 21 assists in all competitions, a number only bettered by Mesut

Ozil and Lionel Messi. In his second season at FC Groningen, Tadic was less successful, as his two companions Matavz and Stenman left and the team went through their worst season in almost a decade.

Tadic was not nearly as impressive as in his debut season, but kept on showing glimpses of his immense potential.

Saints Spotlight

IS NO SURPRISE TO SOME...



FC Twente, though, had seen enough and signed the Serb in March 2012 in order to fend off competition.

Tadic expressed his desire of winning an Eredivisie title, explaining his move of nearly 8 million euros, a hefty fee in the eyes of some.

But in his first league game for FC Twente, he showed his former

club why he had earned them that sum of money.

BATTERING

Battering FC Groningen 4-1, Tadic was elusive, scoring twice and providing assists for the others. Tadic provided an assist on his league debut for FC Groningen, FC Twente and Saints.

FC Twente failed to mount a title challenge in 2012/13 after enduring one of their worst seasons of the last decade, but Tadic was one of their brightest lights.

Racking up double figures for both goals and assists in the league, many expected the Serb to leave.

But Tadic stayed, and in his fourth season in the Dutch

League he often carried his team, leading them to third place and becoming assist king of the season once again.

He was also Twente's top scorer with 16 goals and the inevitable had happened: Dusan Tadic had outgrown the Eredivisie.

The current success of Tadic in the Premier League has come as somewhat of a surprise to many, but those who have watched him up close knew it wasn't a gamble.

Tadic has always been mature beyond his years and has always adapted quite easily to a new environment.

Few footballers have built up their career as gradually as Tadic.

Throughout his career he has resisted bigger clubs and bigger contracts in order to take every step well-considered.

In general, it is difficult to find a footballer who is less uncontroversial off the field than Dusan Tadic, such is his devotion to his profession.

He only missed two of a possible 136 Eredivisie games during his time in the Netherlands, one coming through suspension and the other through injury.

While passionate and dedicated, Tadic is as cool as they come.

That is not to say he is boring.

MESMERISED

A good professional off the pitch, the Serb has always been one of the better on it as he has always mesmerised both opponents and crowds.

Showing a boyish enthusiasm and love for the game, he celebrates his football moments with an almost old-fashioned delight.

Tadic might not be the quickest in pace, but his acceleration is up to scratch and he is a very quick thinker.

He always seems able to dictate the pace of play when he is on the ball.

His vision stands out and gifted with the most competent of left feet he is able to execute almost every plan he has.

He is a formidable dribbler with a turn so cute it would make Johan Cruyff blush.

His right foot is very much a work in progress, but at 25 there is still time to improve.

The man from Baëka Topola has consistently been one of the better players at his club throughout his career. Early signs suggest that is again the case at Southampton.

For years, his qualities have gone somewhat under the radar, as his potential has only been recognised by his fellow countrymen in the last two years.

With his reputation growing, one wonders how far he can go in his career.

Based on his development over the last few years, almost anything seems possible.

Southampton have got themselves another gem, and a very likable one too.

Non-league News

Bash boss is fired up

INTERIM Bashley boss Martin Spiers insists he is "loving the challenge" at the New Forest club and says he would relish the task of taking the job full-time.

The former reserve team manager was handed the role of caretaker at the end of last month after Graham Speechley-Price stood down to focus on commercial matters at Bashley Road.

And with the club yet to appoint a replacement, Spiers is hopeful that he will be able to take on the job and turn the form of the struggling Southern South & West side around.

"The players have been good since I've been in charge, which is pleasing. I've been getting some good vibes off them and my name is in the hat for the job," he said.

"It's a very big commitment for me as it involves working on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday and speaking to people throughout the week but I'm loving the challenge.

"We've got some tough games coming up. We've got North Leigh away on Saturday [today] and then we have to go to Merthyr in the middle of next month.

"I don't know if I will still be caretaker then or if they will have found somebody to take the job full-time but I'm hoping to keep the job.

"I've come up from the reserve team and the boys all know me. I'm trying to get confidence behind them and there were a lot of good vibes from the players, fans and committee at the Yate game on Saturday."

Sponsors needed

THE Southampton Divisional Football Association is looking for sponsorship of its cup finals.

It is offering £500 for sponsorship of its Senior Cup final, which will be played at St Mary's, with the package including eight seats in the directors' box, a full-page advert in the matchday programme, and a complementary after-match buffet.

Sponsorship is also available at £300 each for the Saturday and Sunday senior cup finals, and at £200 each for the Saturday and Sunday Junior cup finals and the veterans and ladies cup finals.

These will be played at Eastleigh, Sholing, Follands Sports, Totton & Eling and AFC Totton.

Sponsorship of the match ball for the St Mary's Senior Cup final is available for £100, which includes an advert in the matchday programme, two tickets in the directors' box and an after-match buffet.

Matchball sponsorship for the other seven cup finals costs £50 each.

For more information, please contact Dave Creeden (023 80438888 or 023 80444582, david@trophyman.co.uk)

GOT A STORY FOR US? EMAIL: ECHOSPORT@DAILYECHO.CO.UK



"Saints are as important to England now as West Ham were in the 1960s."

ACADEMY PRODUCT:
Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain
in action for England.

Saints: the most important club in English football?

INTERESTING fact of the week: of the England squad facing Scotland, no less than seven had strong ties with Southampton.

Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain, Theo Walcott, Luke Shaw, Nathaniel Clyne, Frazer Forster and substitutes Rickie Lambert and Adam Lallana.

When you take into account the other international sides that had played recently, all of Saints' recent starting XI are full internationals, a remarkable feat by anyone's standards.

When you consider that four of them have come through the academy, what better place can you think of for your young starlet?

The success of the academy and the renewed faith in the board is such that the departure of Paul Mitchell to Tottenham barely registered a murmur on social media websites.

No wailing that an integral cog had left for the bright lights of the capital city, more a feeling that a talent had gone and would eventually be replaced by someone of equal, if not superior, ability.

The reason his departure was met with such indifference is mainly due to the new levels of confidence the fanbase has with the board.

They can see the progression the club is making, the improvement at every level and they trust the plan the board has. Paul Mitchell was a cog, an important cog, but like all cogs he was



replaceable. It shows a staggering lack of vision on Tottenham's behalf that they see someone who is reported to be successful and think if they can pay him a stupid amount of money he'll replicate that success with them.

Spurs' dismal track record with signings shows the fallacy in that approach.

As an example look at how they frittered away the £80m or so they got from Real Madrid for Gareth Bale.

Normally you'd have to say that an offer like that could not be refused.

With that sort of money you could buy four good quality players that could walk into most sides looking to break into the Champions League.

Spurs took that money and effectively blew it. They finished a place or two down from their previous season and this season has been an unmitigated disaster.

Quite how they think that reuniting Mitchell with Potchettino is a good option is beyond me. Mitchell oversaw some great buys with Koeman but has everyone forgotten Osvaldo or Lovren? Much was made of the Argentine's

relationship with Osvaldo and how he could harness his talent and yet the Italian's time at St Mary's was a complete catastrophe from start to finish.

Lovren had one good season but is having a shocker now.

There's no doubting Mitchell's ability but I for one won't bat an eyelid at his departure.

The club will move on and, if anything, the international break has highlighted just how far Southampton Football Club has come.

In time you may look back at this article and agree with me when I say that Southampton Football Club right now is as important to England as West Ham was in the 1960s.

And this in a week when our neighbours down the road went out in the first round of the FA cup, against conference opposition.

If you ever needed proof that achievement and progress through growth and development is the way forward then look at the shambolic car crash right now that is Portsmouth Football Club.

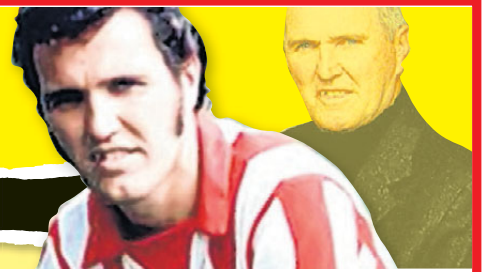
I know who I'd rather support... I suspect you do as well...



ACADEMY PRODUCT: Luke Shaw.

Paine's World

The Saints legend's **EXCLUSIVE** column on all things football



THE idol worship of Paul Scholes has been in full swing since his first retirement in the summer of 2011.

The decision to call time on his career was only broken due to a midfield injury crisis in January 2012, when Manchester United were trailing behind neighbours City in the league and had been thrashed 6-1 by their bitter rivals, at Old Trafford, in a memorable, humiliating contest.

Scholes went on to play 21 times that season in all competitions, scoring four goals.

United, after a shaky period before the new year, went unbeaten until April 11, in a 1-0 defeat to Wigan, which Scholes did not feature in.

His importance for United was, therefore, rightfully recognised.

The way that they moved the ball had not felt right without him, and people began to understand how talented Scholes was at passing the ball.

In the last five Premier League seasons, only six players have completed more passes per game than Scholes (54.4).

He also boasted a pass accuracy of 91 per cent from August 2009 until his second retirement, in the summer of 2013.

Although these are very impressive statistics, it is his range of passing that United have missed in the last two seasons.

Since August 2009, Scholes recorded an 80.8 per cent long ball accuracy rate, notably higher than other so-called 'long ball experts' like Steven Gerrard (74.8) or Frank Lampard (74.1).

UNPARALLELED

Indeed, Scholes' cross-field passes are unparalleled, as nobody in memory comes close to being able to produce the accuracy, speed, frequency and timing that he did.

But these passes served a more effective purpose than simply looking pretty.

United have always played with speedy wingers – people like Ryan Giggs and Cristiano Ronaldo – who are/were at their best when running at defenders on the flank.

Scholes needed only to patiently keep possession in the middle of the park, lull the opposition into a relaxed state, and suddenly ping a 40-yard ball over to the winger for a quick, unexpected injection of pace.

It sounds simple, but Scholes' greatest assets were his timing and his footballing brain.

He knew when to stretch teams and when to be compact.

Often, especially at Old Trafford, United found themselves facing a compact, ten-man defensive line.

In these situations, it certainly helps to have a passer like Scholes, who can stretch the opposition and tire them by making them chase his long, cross-field balls.

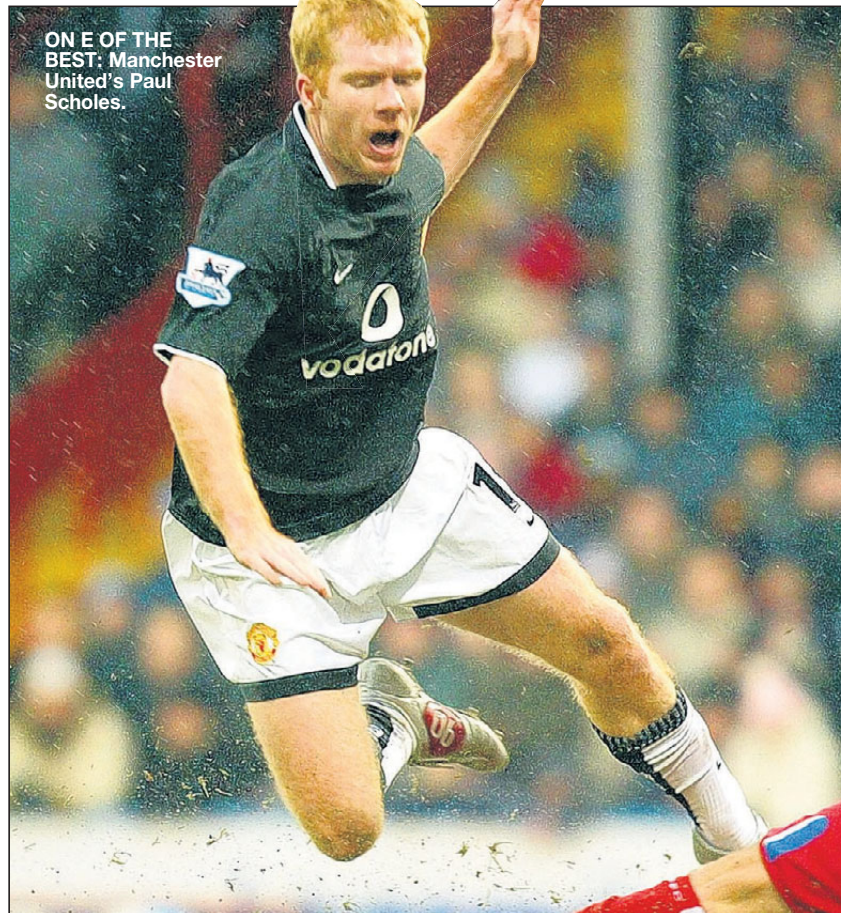
In a well-publicised Monday Night Football clip, where Gary Neville and Jamie Carragher debate the merits of Scholes, Lampard and Gerrard, Neville credited this asset as being the reason why United managed to score so many late goals.

When Scholes retired – both times – the tempo and purpose to United's passing was notably absent.

The difference was apparent, for example, when he came off the bench against Southampton away, in September 2012, during his first return to the team.

United were 2-1 down, and facing a compact, counter-attacking Saints side, who were giving them no space through the centre.

Scholes came off the bench and began dictating the tempo,



ONE OF THE BEST: Manchester United's Paul Scholes.

United still miss maestro Scholes

spreading passes left and right, and bringing Rafael da Silva and Antonio Valencia into the game.

United went on to score from two crosses, albeit one was a corner, to make it 3-2 in injury time.

Robin van Persie received the plaudits for his hat-trick, but it was Scholes who had changed the game.

DICTATE TEMPO

This season, Daley Blind has demonstrated an ability to dictate the tempo.

His pass accuracy, positioning and intelligence are valuable assets to the team.

The problem is that he doesn't have as vast a range of passing, and that can sometimes result

in United becoming a bit pedestrian. Ander Herrera and Michael Carrick both have the ability to spread the ball wide and keep the ball, much like Scholes.

Although good, they are simply not Scholes, and cannot match his frequency or timing, sometimes resulting in dispossession.

It is telling that Louis van Gaal, pictured left, has effectively stopped playing with wingers – a Manchester United tradition – and has begun with a slower, narrower formation where the fullbacks overlap the midfielders.

United simply don't have the ability to rely on spraying passes out wide anymore.

The required re-think is partially why United have struggled this season.

As Van Gaal tries to educate his ranks on how to move the ball quickly through the middle, how he must wish he had a certain Mancunian ginger midfield maestro to lead the way.

'Southampton way' gets its recognition with England

WATCHING England play Scotland this week, I was gobsmacked at how many current or former Saints players were in Roy Hodgson's squad.

Of the 22 players the England manager had available that night, eight of them had links to Southampton, with many of them being products of the club's academy.

I know the focus is always on how the first-team are doing – and, right now, they are performing exceptionally well – but look at what that tells you about the club as a whole, the academy and the 'Southampton Way'.

For me, it was like a shining beacon, and a fabulous indication of what Southampton is all about.

Nathaniel Clyne, pictured, took a lot of credit after what I believe was an extremely important 3-1 win for England, and deservedly so.

I thought he did extremely well, especially how he dealt with the extremely quick Ikechi Anya.

With Luke Shaw on the other side, it is something to think that, just a few months ago, both of England's full-backs were Southampton players.

Matches between Scotland and England are always tremendous affairs.

I once played in such a fixture, at Hampden Park, in 1964, as part of the Home International Championship – a tournament that I would like to see reignited again.

There was an astonishing crowd of 133,245, and, as you can imagine, the atmosphere was incredible.

Unfortunately for us, we lost 1-0, to an Alan Gilzean goal.

Mind you, back then, Scotland boasted quite a team, with their side also including players such as Denis Law and Jim Baxter, who had both played for a World XI against England the year before, at Wembley.

That was the sort of quality Scotland had. Compare that to now, though, and it is chalk and cheese.

Only two players in their team on Wednesday played in the Premier League – Steven Naismith, at Everton, and Andy Roberston, for Hull. Back in my day, every team in the First Division would have quality Scottish players in their team.

That might be a true reflection of where Scotland are now, but also what a fine job ex-Southampton manager Gordon Strachan has done in getting them performing so well in Euro 2016 qualifying.



Saints Spotlight



Did You Know?

Ron's men a FOUR-ce to be reckoned with

SAINTS are aiming to become the 14th club to finish in the top four of the Premier League since the top flight was rebranded in 1992.

If Ronald Koeman's, pictured below, men were to claim such a finish, it would be the most amazing achievement in the elite league in modern times.

Norwich finished in the top four once, but that was in the Premier League's first season in 1992/93 when the top flight's financial landscape was much changed from the one we see today.



Nottingham Forest finished third in 1994/95, their first season back in the top flight after relegation in Brian Clough's final season as manager in 1992/93.

Since the start of the 2005/06 season, only six clubs have finished in the top four – the two Manchester clubs, Arsenal, Liverpool, Chelsea and Tottenham.

TOP FOUR FINISHES

	1	2	3	4	Ttl
Man United	13	5	3	0	21
Arsenal	3	5	4	7	19
Chelsea	3	4	4	2	13
Liverpool	0	3	5	5	13
Newcastle	0	2	2	1	5
Man City	2	1	1	0	4
Blackburn	1	1	0	1	3
Leeds United	0	0	1	2	3
Aston Villa	0	1	0	1	2
Tottenham	0	0	0	2	2
Norwich City	0	0	1	0	1
Nottm Forest	0	0	1	0	1
Everton	0	0	0	1	1

SAINTS DEFY THE

IT has been a near perfect start to the season for Saints fans.

Their team has continued to defy summer predictions of struggle and have emerged as the surprise side of the 2014/15 Premier League so far.

The 2-0 success against Leicester was the club's eighth win in nine league matches – their best-ever top flight run in such a timeframe.

Saints, amazingly, have opened up a healthy seven-point gap between themselves and fifth placed Swansea ahead of this weekend's games.

Ronald Koeman's men have been second since beating Stoke on October 25, the longest time they have held such a position for more than 30 years.

Saints finished the 1983/84 season as runners-up, but they only jumped into second spot by winning their last match of the season.

Prior to that, Lawrie McMenemy's men had briefly been second in September and October 1983.

Before that, McMenemy's side topped the old First Division table between the end of January 1982 and early March the same year.

In addition to Saints' own successes, fans have taken great delight in the fortunes of the men who left St Mary's last summer.

Mauricio Pochettino has overseen one of Tottenham's worst starts to a Premier League season in the last ten years.

And Adam Lallana, Dejan Lovren and Rickie Lambert have all played a part in Liverpool's joint-worst start to a Premier League season (in terms of points) since the very first post-rebranding campaign of 1992/93.

SAINTS' STARTS TO A SEASON SINCE 1992/93

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Pos
Premier Lge 1992-93	11	2	4	5	9	14	11	18th
Premier Lge 1993-94	11	1	2	8	11	19	5	21st
Premier Lge 1994-95	11	4	3	4	17	19	15	10th
Premier Lge 1995-96	11	2	3	6	11	20	9	17th
Premier Lge 1996-97	11	3	3	5	20	16	12	14th
Premier Lge 1997-98	11	2	1	8	8	18	7	19th
Premier Lge 1998-99	11	1	3	7	5	23	6	20th
Premier Lge 1999-00	11	3	3	5	18	22	12	14th
Premier Lge 2000-01	11	2	4	5	12	20	10	18th
Premier Lge 2001-02	11	2	1	8	10	21	7	19th
Premier Lge 2002-03	11	4	4	3	11	10	16	10th
Premier Lge 2003-04	11	4	4	3	10	7	16	8th
Premier Lge 2004-05	11	1	4	6	8	14	7	18th
Champ 2005-06	11	3	7	1	12	9	16	7th
Champ 2006-07	11	4	4	3	17	14	16	9th
Champ 2007-08	11	5	1	5	20	23	16	9th
Champ 2008-09	11	3	2	6	11	18	11	20th
League 1 2009-10	11	1	3	6	14	13	5	24th
League 1 2010-11	11	4	3	4	11	8	15	13th



Champ 2011-12	11	7	2	2	26	13	26	1st
Premier Lge 2012-13	11	1	2	8	15	29	5	19th
Premier Lge 2013-14	11	6	4	1	15	5	22	3rd
Premier Lge 2014-15	11	8	1	2	23	5	25	2nd

SPURS' STARTS TO A SEASON SINCE 1992/93

MAURICIO Pochettino has picked up 14 points from his first 11 games as Tottenham boss.

That makes it the third worst start to a Premier League season in 12 seasons for the club since the start of 2003/04.

Pochettino has picked up six fewer points at the same stage as Andre Villas-Boas did last year –

and the Portuguese manager was sacked in December!

In only four seasons out of 23 since the Premier League was introduced, have Spurs been lower in the table after 11 games than their current 12th place.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Pos
Premier Lge 1992-93	11	2	4	5	9	19	10	19th
Premier Lge 1993-94	11	5	3	3	18	12	18	5th
Premier Lge 1994-95	11	4	2	5	18	23	14	13th
Premier Lge 1995-96	11	4	4	3	16	14	16	9th
Premier Lge 1996-97	11	4	2	5	11	11	14	9th
Premier Lge 1997-98	11	3	4	4	9	13	13	11th
Premier Lge 1998-99	11	4	3	4	14	18	15	9th
Premier Lge 1999-00	11	6	3	2	20	15	20	5th
Premier Lge 2000-01	11	4	2	5	15	17	14	12th

Premier Lge 2001-02	11	5	2	4	18	15	17	7th
Premier Lge 2002-03	11	6	1	4	17	16	19	5th
Premier Lge 2003-04	11	3	5	3	10	14	12	12th
Premier Lge 2004-05	11	3	4	4	6	8	13	11th
Premier Lge 2005-06	11	5	5	1	13	7	20	3rd
Premier Lge 2006-07	11	4	3	4	8	11	15	10th
Premier Lge 2007-08	11	1	4	6	18	23	7	18th
Premier Lge 2008-09	11	2	3	6	13	17	9	18th
Premier Lge 2009-10	11	6	1	4	21	17	19	4th
Premier Lge 2010-11	11	4	3	4	13	14	15	6th
Premier Lge 2011-12	11	8	2	1	23	15	25	3rd
Premier Lge 2012-13	11	5	4	2	18	16	17	7th
Premier Lge 2013-14	11	6	3	2	9	6	20	7th
Premier Lge 2014-15	11	4	2	5	14	16	14	12th

READ THE ADAM RANT COLUMN ON PAGES 18-19

Saints Spotlight

DOUBTERS



SURPRISE SIDE: The form of Dusan Tadic has been one of the key factors behind Saints' superb start to the season, putting former St Mary's boss Mauricio Pochettino, left, and ex-Saints player Dejan Lovren, far left, in the shade.

LIVERPOOL'S STARTS TO A SEASON SINCE 1992/93

ONLY once have Liverpool picked up fewer points after 11 games of a Premier League season than they have done in 2014/15.

A summer spending spree of over £100m involved bringing in three Saints stars – Rickie Lambert's pre-World Cup move followed by Adam Lallana and Dejan Lovren following him through the Anfield entrance door.

But life has not started well for any of them.

Lambert has only made one Premier League start for the Reds, and has yet to score his first competitive goal for the club.

Lallana missed the start of the season through injury, and has only impressed in short bursts.

Lovren has struggled, with Liverpool boasting a worse defensive record with him in the side than they did without him in finishing runners-up last season.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Pos
Premier Lge 1992-93	11	3	3	5	14	18	12	15th
Premier Lge 1993-94	11	5	1	5	15	9	16	10th
Premier Lge 1994-95	11	7	2	2	27	11	23	5th
Premier Lge 1995-96	11	7	2	2	22	8	23	3rd
Premier Lge 1996-97	11	7	2	2	20	11	23	4th
Premier Lge 1997-98	11	5	3	3	20	12	18	5th
Premier Lge 1998-99	11	4	3	4	18	12	16	4th
Premier Lge 1999-00	11	4	3	4	12	11	15	11th

Premier Lge 2000-01	11	6	3	2	20	14	21	3rd
Premier Lge 2001-02	11	7	2	2	21	11	23	1st
Premier Lge 2002-03	11	8	3	0	22	9	27	1st
Premier Lge 2003-04	11	5	2	4	17	12	17	7th
Premier Lge 2004-05	11	5	4	2	18	11	17	7th
Premier Lge 2005-06	11	5	4	2	12	8	19	8th
Premier Lge 2006-07	11	5	2	4	14	12	17	7th
Premier Lge 2007-08	11	5	6	0	17	6	21	7th
Premier Lge 2008-09	11	8	2	1	16	8	26	2nd
Premier Lge 2009-10	11	6	0	5	25	16	18	5th
Premier Lge 2010-11	11	4	3	4	12	14	15	9th
Premier Lge 2011-12	11	5	4	2	14	10	19	6th
Premier Lge 2012-13	11	3	5	3	11	12	14	13th
Premier Lge 2013-14	11	7	2	2	21	10	23	2nd
Premier Lge 2014-15	11	4	2	5	14	15	14	8th

SAINTS STATS - SEE PAGE 20

King Artur: Boruc the pick of players loaned by Saints

ARTUR Boruc has emerged as the outstanding performer amongst the players Ronald Koeman has sent out on loan this season.

The Polish international keeper lost his place as the No 1 choice at St Mary's as soon as Koeman splashed out £10m to sign Fraser Forster from Celtic.

Boruc had been Mauricio Pochettino's undisputed first choice last season, and had kept an impressive 14 clean sheets in 29 Premier League outings.

Following Forster's arrival, Boruc was loaned out to AFC Bournemouth.

And while Forster has made a superb start to life at Saints, so Boruc has helped Cherries emerge as the Championship's surprise promotion contenders.

Forster is part of the tightest defence in English football.

But Boruc currently boasts a better personal record than the England international.

Following Saints' win over Leicester, Forster has conceded only five goals in 11 Premier League games at an average of a goal every 198 minutes.

But Boruc can better that.

After keeping his fifth clean sheet in his last six league games in a 0-0 draw at Middlesbrough, the Polish international has only conceded four goals in his nine league outings for the Cherries.

That works out at an average of a goal every 202.5 minutes.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at how the other Saints loanees are doing ...

Jos Hooiveld

The Dutch centre half is on a season-long loan at Carrow Road.

He has only made five Championship appearances since joining Norwich in September, making his debut in a 4-2 win at Cardiff City.

Hooiveld, a regular when Saints won promotion from the second tier in 2011/12, has played 90 minutes against Cardiff, Brentford, Birmingham and Blackpool.

He managed 75 minutes against Rotherham before being substituted. Hooiveld has not appeared for the Canaries since the beginning of October.

He was an unused sub in the 2-1 loss at Nottingham Forest.

Jack Stephens

The 20-year-old defender re-joined Swindon in September after spending the latter half of 2013/14 on loan to the League 1 club.

Stephens has made nine league appearances so far and has also played once in both the FA Cup and the JTP trophy.

He is on the verge of a suspension, having picked up four yellow cards already, and Swindon have only managed two clean sheets when Stephens has appeared.

Stephens has completed the full 90 minutes in ten of his 11 appearances.

The exception was the 5-0 FA Cup humiliation at lower division Cheltenham, when he was taken off just after the hour mark.

Jordan Turnbull

Turnbull is also at Swindon on a season-long loan.

He made his professional debut in a 3-1 win over Scunthorpe back in August. Since joining the Robins, Turnbull has made 22 appearances with 17 of them coming in the league.

He has also played twice in both the League Cup and the JPT Trophy as well as appearing in the FA Cup debate at Cheltenham.

Like Stephens, he too is on the verge of a suspension having picked up four cautions.

He has managed to play the entire 90 minutes in all his appearances, but Swindon have struggled to keep clean sheets – just four in Turnbull's 22 games.

Gaston Ramirez

The Uruguayan enigma joined Hull City on a season-long loan on the last day of the transfer window.

If he moved to Humberside believing he would be playing more regularly than he did for Saints last season, he has so far been proved totally wrong.

Ramirez, once Saints' club record signing in the summer of 2012, has made six Premier League appearances – all as a second half sub. The longest run he has been given was 39 minutes in the 1-0 loss at Burnley.

Dani Osvaldo

Since joining Inter Milan on a season-long loan, Osvaldo has made a total of 12 appearances for the club.

He has made four starts in Serie A and three off the bench.

In his first start, he scored twice in a 7-0 thrashing of Sassuolo.

Osvaldo, who remains Saints' record signing, came off the bench to score in a 2-0 win against Atlanta and also netted from the start in a 4-1 home drubbing by Cagliari.

That four goals in seven games return is a big improvement on his loan spell with Juventus in the second half of last season, when he only managed one goal in 11 Serie A appearances – only four of which were starts. In addition, the Italian international has also made five Europa League appearances, scoring once.

Jake Sinclair

The winger has only made three appearances since joining Hibernian on a season-long loan. Sinclair made his debut off the bench in a 3-2 Scottish

Championship win against Cowdenbeath on September 13 in which he played 22 minutes.

He started a week later in a 1-0 loss to Queen Of The South, being substituted on the hour mark.

He also featured as a second-half sub in the 0-0 home return against Queen Of The South.

Sinclair has been on form for Hibernian's under-20 side, however, hitting a hat-trick in a 6-2 win against Dundee United earlier this month.



Saints Spotlight



DAVIES BLAZED A TRAIL



KINGPIN: Lawrie McMenemy was in charge of Saints' trip to Villa Park in 1978.



OPENER: Kevin Keegan scored for Saints at Villa Park in 1982.



HEADED BRACE: Joe Jordan.

SAINTS return to Premier League action with a trip to Villa Park on Monday.

Here, the *Sports Pink* takes a look at some of Saints' previous visits to take on the Aston Villa.

September 5, 1966 ASTON VILLA 0 SAINTS 1

With both teams languishing in the bottom half of the league, Saints travelled to Villa Park looking to move into the top half of the table. After Ron Davies's goal in the 50th minute, Saints held on to record their first ever victory at Villa Park, pushing them up to eighth in the table.

March 15, 1975 ASTON VILLA 3 SAINTS 0

Aston Villa, who were sitting pretty in second place, welcomed a Saints side struggling for survival in Division 2. Three second-half goals from Villa proved too much for the away side. Villa later went on to gain promotion.

September 2, 1978 ASTON VILLA 1 SAINTS 1

Newly promoted back to the top tier of English football, Lawrie McMenemy's side were given the tough task of playing at Villa Park early on in the season. Despite going a goal down in the 23rd minute, the Saints fought back through a fine header from Chris Nicholl to earn them a point.

October 6, 1979 ASTON VILLA 3 SAINTS 0

Two quick goals before half time and another in the second half ensured that Saints travelled back to the south coast empty handed after missing a host of chances.

March 28, 1981 ASTON VILLA 2 SAINTS 1

Saints got off to flying start after they took the lead through an own goal from Allan Evans. However, two goals in quick succession before half-time gave the hosts the ascendancy. Villa would not only hold on to win the game but they also went on to win the league.

February 10, 1982 ASTON VILLA 1 SAINTS 1

A Kevin Keegan header from 12 yards out put Saints ahead only for the reigning champions to peg them back in the 67th minute.

January 3, 1983 ASTON VILLA 2 SAINTS 0

Aston Villa breezed past a young Saints side with goals from Gordon Cowans and Allan Evans (penalty).

September 24, 1984 ASTON VILLA 1 SAINTS 0

Saints suffered their first loss of the season with Peter Withe scoring the only goals of the game. Saints finished the game with ten men after Frank Worthington was dismissed early in the second half.

November 17, 1984 ASTON VILLA 2 SAINTS 2

After finishing second in the league the previous season, Saints showed great resilience to battle back from 2-0 to earn a point. Two Joe Jordan headers after the break capped an impressive comeback.

FEBRUARY 1, 1986 ASTON VILLA 0 SAINTS 0



HISTORY MAKER: Ron Davies's goal brought Saints their first ever win at Villa Park in 1966.

Although neither side could break the deadlock, Saints would finish the season two points ahead of Villa in 14th.

October 11, 1986 ASTON VILLA 3 SAINTS 1

Danny Wallace brought the only highlight of the match for Saints when he lashed home from close range. Villa would later be relegated.

May 2, 1989 ASTON VILLA 1 SAINTS 2

Saints took the lead inside the first minute with a Rod Wallace header. They doubled their advantage when Paul Rideout touched in Matt Le

Tissier's cross. Villa pulled one back late on but it wasn't enough as Saints recorded their first win at Villa Park since 1966.

January 20, 1990 ASTON VILLA 2 SAINTS 1

Tony Daley put the hosts ahead before Glenn Cockerill levelled in the second half with a stunning half volley. A late strike from Kevin Gage ensured a tenth home win in a row for Villa.

August 8, 1990 ASTON VILLA 1 SAINTS 1

Saints went ahead in the opening fixture of the campaign through Matt Le Tissier on seven min-

VILLA v SAINTS PREVIEW IN MONDAY'S DAILY ECHO

Saints Spotlight



FOR SAINTS AT VILLA



WINNER: Rickie Lambert scores from the spot at Villa Park in January 2013.

utes but Tony Cascarino levelled matters seven minutes later.

**December 28, 1991
ASTON VILLA 2 SAINTS 1**

Saints' player of the season, Alan Shearer, netted a late consolation as Villa held on for victory after earlier goals from Cyrille Regis and Dwight Yorke.

**August 22, 1992
ASTON VILLA 1 SAINTS 1**

Micky Adams stabbed home Ian Dowie's lay off to earn Saints a point in the newly established Premier League. Villa would go on to

secure European football after finishing second.

**November 24, 1993
ASTON VILLA 0 SAINTS 2**

Two goals from Matt Le Tissier were enough to overcome a Villa side sitting second in the league.

**August 24, 1994
ASTON VILLA 1 SAINTS 1**

Matt Le Tissier rescued a point with a late goal, curling a shot into the top corner on 89 minutes.

April 8, 1996

ASTON VILLA 3 SAINTS 0

Second-half goals from Ian Taylor, Gary Charles and Dwight Yorke secured Villa their first home win over Saints in four seasons.

May 11, 1997

ASTON VILLA 1 SAINTS 0

Richard Dryden's own goal gave Villa victory in the last match of the season.

December 20, 1997

ASTON VILLA 1 SAINTS 1

Ian Taylor opened the scoring for Villa but Saints quickly got back on level terms through Egil Ostenstad. Matt Le Tissier had a goal ruled out.

April 4, 1999

ASTON VILLA 3 SAINTS 0

Struggling in the relegation zone, Saints crumbled after the dismissal of Claus Lundekvam shortly before half-time. Mark Draper, Julian Joachim and Dion Dublin were on target for Villa.

November 6, 1999

ASTON VILLA 0 SAINTS 1

The deadlock was broken by a late goal from Dean Richards.

April 24, 2001

ASTON VILLA 0 SAINTS 0

Striker James Beattie saw his first-half header ruled out for offside in this stalemate.

April 27, 2002

ASTON VILLA 2 SAINTS 1

In his first game back after being sidelined with an ankle injury, James Beattie scored a late consolation following a first-half double from Darius Vassell. Results elsewhere meant that Saints were safe from the drop going into the final game of the season.

October 21, 2002

ASTON VILLA 0 SAINTS 1

James Beattie scored from the spot early in the second half after Brett Ormerod had been held back by goalkeeper Peter Enckelman. Saints went on to record a top-half finish while Villa just avoided relegation.

November 29, 2003

ASTON VILLA 1 SAINTS 0

Dian Dublin's goal on the stroke of half-time sealed the points for Villa.

August 14, 2004

ASTON VILLA 2 SAINTS 0

Villa won the opening game of the season thanks to first-half goals from Darius Vassell and Carlton Cole. Saints went on to be relegated.

January 12, 2013

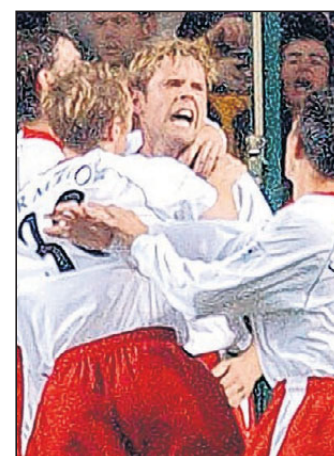
ASTON VILLA 0 SAINTS 1

In their first Premier League campaign for seven seasons, a 34th minute Rickie Lambert penalty meant that Saints recorded back-to-back wins over the Villans.

April 19, 2014

ASTON VILLA 0 SAINTS 0

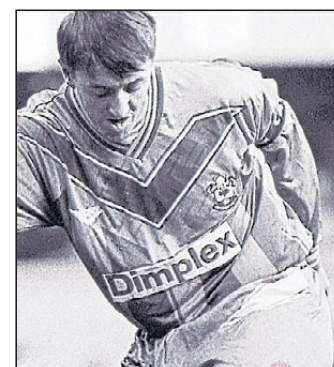
This draw saw Villa drop down to 15th while Mauricio Pochettino's Saints stayed eighth – their ultimate finishing spot in the league.



WINNER: James Beattie celebrates with teammates after scoring from the spot during Saints' victory at Villa Park on October 21, 2002.



KEY MAN: Dean Richards scored the winner for Saints in November 1999.



DOUBLE: Matt Le Tissier secured victory for Saints in November 1993.

LIVE VILLA v SAINTS UPDATES AT dailyecho.co.uk

Saints Spotlight



Sports Quiz

1. Roy Carroll played for Notts County on Monday less than 24 hours after appearing for Northern Ireland in which European city?
2. What is the name of Seve Ballesteros' son, who has turned professional in golf?
3. Who did England's last rugby union win come against?
4. Sacked Wigan boss Uwe Rosler had moved to the north west from which club?
5. Which two teams will play in Major League Soccer for the first time from next season?
- 6 Former England striker Teddy Sheringham finished his professional career at which club?



- 7 Rafael Nadal (pictured) has won how many grand slam tennis singles titles?
- 8 The NFL team nicknamed the 'Lions' play home games in which city?
- 9 Which golfer is the reigning US Open champion?
- 10 London Welsh's new signing Elliot Kear represented which country in rugby league?
- 11 How many world titles has Ronnie O'Sullivan won?
- 12 Who is the reigning Australian Open ladies champion?
- 13 Who plays at Brunton Park?
- 14 How many golds did Charlotte Dujardin win at London 2012?
- 15 Paul Anderson coaches which Super League side?

Answers: 1. Bucharest; 2. Huddersfield. Carlisle; 14 Two; 15 Wales; 11 Five; 12 Li Na; 13 Detroit; 9 Martin Kaymer; 10 City; 6 Colchester; 7 14; 8 New York City FC and Orlando Javiera; 3. Italy; 4. Brentford; 5. Answers: 1. Bucharest; 2. Huddersfield.

THE STATS BEHIND SAINTS' SUCCESS



SAINTS have enjoyed a sensational start to the season, storming into second place in the Premier League after 11 games.

But what about the stats behind the story? Here, the *Sports Pink* breaks down Saints' statistical success to help explain why Ronald Koeman's men have been so good this season.

■ When it comes to goals, Saints have certainly not been lacking. Entering this weekend, their 23 Premier League strikes could only be bettered by Chelsea, with 28.

	GOALS
Chelsea	28
Saints	23
Manchester City	22
Everton	20
West Ham	19
Arsenal	19
Manchester United	17
Swansea	15

■ It is no wonder they hold such a lofty status when it comes to goals. After all, they are among the leaders in shots per game.

	SHOTS PER GAME
Manchester City	18
Arsenal	16.8
Chelsea	14.9
Liverpool	14.7
Manchester United	14.6
West Ham	14.4
Saints	14.1
Stoke	13.9

■ The man leading the goal charge for Saints has been summer signing Graziano Pelle. The Italian international has found the net six times for his new club, making him one of the league's top scorers.

Gordon Simpson

gordon.simpson@dailyecho.co.uk

SPORTS REPORTER



	APPS	GOALS
Sergio Aguero (Manchester City)	9(2)	12
Diego Costa (Chelsea)	9	10
Alexis Sanchez (Arsenal)	9(1)	8
Saido Berahino (West Brom)	11	7
Charlie Austin (QPR)	10	6
Diafra Sakho (West Ham)	7(1)	6
Graziano Pelle (Saints)	11	6
Nacer Chadli (Tottenham)	10	6

■ It comes as no surprise that Pelle has been so effective in front of goal this season, when you see how many attempts he manages in each game. In fact, only Manchester City's Sergio Aguero – the Premier League's top scorer – averages more.

	APPS	SHOTS PER GAME
Sergio Aguero (Manchester City)	9(2)	5.2
Graziano Pelle (Saints)	11	4.3
Mario Balotelli (Liverpool)	8(1)	3.9
Charlie Austin (QPR)	10	3.5
Angel Di Maria (Manchester United)	9	3.4
Yaya Toure (Manchester City)	9	3.4
Diafra Sakho (West Ham)	7(1)	3.4
Danny Welbeck (Arsenal)	8	3.3

■ Of course, every good striker needs good service. At Saints, no one provides more of it than Dusan Tadic – another of the club's fine summer signings. The midfielder is among the top assist providers in the Premier League this season.

PLAYER (TEAM)	APPS	ASSISTS
Cesc Fabregas (Chelsea)	11	9
Gylfi Sigurdsson (Swansea)	11	7
Dusan Tadic (Saints)	11	6
Leighton Baines (Everton)	11	6

GOAL CHARGE: Graziano Pelle is among the Premier League's top scorers this season

LATEST PREMIER LEAGUE STANDINGS - SEE BACK PAGE

Saints Spotlight



STAT STARS: Dusan Tadic (above) has created a host of chances for Saints, while Morgan Schneiderlin (right) is among the top passers



Angel Di Maria (Manchester United)	9	5
Chris Brunt (West Brom)	11	4
Erik Lamela (Tottenham)	9(2)	4
Stewart Downing (West Ham)	11	4

■ While Tadic might not quite be at the top of the assist chart, perhaps a truer indication of his production comes when we look at the number of chances he has created – not just the ones that were converted. Heading into this weekend, no one in England's top-flight had laid on more opportunities than him.

	APPS	CHANCES CREATED
Dusan Tadic (Saints)	11	35
Stewart Downing (West Ham)	11	34
Cesc Fabregas (Chelsea)	11	32
Angel Di Maria (Manchester United)	9	28
Leighton Baines (Everton)	11	28
Gylfi Sigurdsson (Swansea)	11	26
Raheem Sterling (Liverpool)	11	26
James Milner (Manchester City)	9	25

■ Although Tadic has been taking a lot of the headlines this season, he is not the only Saints midfielder with a penchant for passing. In fact, only three players in the league average more per game than Morgan Schneiderlin does.

	APPS	PASSES PER GAME
Yaya Toure (Manchester City)	9(1)	87.5
Cesc Fabregas (Chelsea)	11	79.8
Gareth Barry (Everton)	11	70.9
Morgan Schneiderlin (Saints)	11	69.6
David Silva (Manchester City)	9	67.6
Dejan Lovren (Liverpool)	11	67.5
Mesut Ozil (Arsenal)	6	67.0
Daley Blind (Manchester United)	8	66.3

■ While Saints have been prolific in attack, their success is also largely down to how strong they have been at the back. With just five goals conceded so far this term, they



TOP TACKLER: Nathaniel Clyne

don't just boast the best defence in the Premier League, but in all of England.

	GOALS CONCEDED
Saints	5
Chelsea	11
Swansea	11
Manchester City	12
Arsenal	13
Stoke	13
West Ham	14
Manchester United	14

■ It is no fluke, either, given how good Saints have been at stopping the opposition from getting in shots at goal. Only Arsenal have been better at keeping chances against them down.

	SHOTS CONCEDED PER GAME
Arsenal	7.7
Saints	8.3
Manchester United	10.2
Liverpool	10.5
Newcastle	10.8
Chelsea	11.0
Manchester City	11.3
West Brom	11.9

■ Saints certainly aren't shy of getting stuck in, either, as these tackling statistics show.

	TACKLES PER GAME
Saints	24.1
Sunderland	21.8
Stoke	21.6
Tottenham	21.5
Crystal Palace	21.3
Chelsea	21
Newcastle	20.7
Liverpool	20.5

■ When it comes to individual tacklers, Nathaniel Clyne is ranked the best in the division, while Schneiderlin and Victor Wanyama are also among the top eight.

	APPS	TACKLES PER GAME
Nathaniel Clyne (Saints)	11	5.0
Mile Jedinak (C Palace)	10	4.6
Mohamed Diame (Hull)	8	4.5
Morgan Schneiderlin	11	3.9
Craig Gardner (West Brom)	10	3.9
Victor Wanyama (Saints)	6(4)	3.9
George Boyd (Burnley)	8	3.8
Antonio Valencia (Man Utd)	5(2)	3.7

Add all of that together and it has made for a pretty impressive season so far.

Non-league News

Totton hope to sign two more

AFC Totton manager Steve Riley is hoping to sign two players from Conference South.

Riley was expected to hand a debut to defender Stuart Mott at Shortwood today, following the 22 year-old's arrival from Sholing.

But Mott is unlikely to be the last arrival at the Testwood Stadium before Christmas.

Riley believes he also needs to strengthen his squad elsewhere.

He said: "I'm very pleased to have Stuart on board; he's two-footed, good in the air and is someone I wanted in the summer after watching him play for Alresford last season.

"He decided to go to Sholing but I'm delighted to have him now. He offers us a bit of



STUART MOTT

quality and he's a talker and a leader, which we've lacked.

"We're also looking at getting a couple of Conference South players.

"I've spoken to the chairman about other positions that need strengthening so watch this space over the next couple of weeks.

"If we can get another two more experienced lads in it will do wonders for the balance of the squad because we're going to be light when we get a few injuries.

"We've been lucky so far but we're lacking strength in depth and could do with more competition for places. At the moment we're asking teenagers to play week in, week out which is very hard for them physically.

"They're doing a really good job but we've got to be realistic."

Riley added: "The goals we've conceded have been down to individuals losing concentration rather than teams cutting us open and that's been disappointing."

SOUTHERN
Daily Echo

FIND THE BALL



THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT

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FIND THE BALL is a test of skill and football knowledge and is open to readers of the Southampton, Bournemouth, Dorset Echos, Brighton Argus and Sunday Independent, Plymouth.

You have to use your skill and judgement to determine the exact centre of the ball.

Mark an X with a ballpoint pen on the picture where you consider that position to be – clear rubber stamps and self adhesive labels will also be accepted.

Every coupon will be carefully examined and the jackpot prize will be paid to the entrant whose cross marks the exact centre of the ball when the photograph was taken.

If the Jackpot is not won, £1,000 will be added to next week's jackpot.

The nearest-miss prize of £1,000 will be paid out each week to the

competitor whose cross is nearest to the centre of the ball when there is no jackpot winner.

When a jackpot has been won the next week's prize reverts back to £5,000 and the nearest-miss prize stays at £1,000.

If the Jackpot is not won after 46 weeks, when standing at £50,000, the nearest miss prize of £1,000 will be paid out and the jackpot will remain at £50,000 each week until there is a jackpot winner, then the jackpot starts again at £5,000, with the nearest miss prize remaining at £1,000 each week.

If there is more than one winner the jackpot will be shared and, similarly, if there is more than one runner-up the nearest miss prize will also be shared.

RESULTS



CLOSING DATE FOR POSTAL ENTRIES
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9am,
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2014
Names of winners will be published on
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29 November
or
30 November
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Winners

Competition number **S44**

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J Denham, Eastleigh, Hants
J Greenwood-winn, Southampton, Hants
M Walford, Southampton, Hants
R Hillier, Eastleigh, Hants
J McBurnie, Southampton, Hants

J Orchard, Eastleigh, Hants
C Orchard, Totton, Hants
C Rolfe, Andover, Hants
M Scott, Southampton, Hants
S Smith, Southampton, Hants
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Rules

1. You are allowed a minimum of 60 crosses and a maximum of 450 per coupon. Coupons with 451 or more will be disqualified. Entries altered defaced or mutilated will be invalid. Crosses must be distinct and separate. **2.** Competitors may submit as many coupons as they wish. Members of a family can send their entries in one envelope with a covering postal order or cheque. **3.** No responsibility can be accepted for entries delayed, lost or mislaid. Proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. **4.** Payment may be made by postal order or cheque for the correct amount payable to Newsquest, and crossed 'S & Co.' Stamps **will not** be accepted in payment. **5.** A competitor cannot win more than one share of the prize money across all titles each week. **6.** The Editor's decision on winning entry or entries and matters relating to this competition is binding in honour only. **NO CORRESPONDENCE CAN BE ENTERED INTO.** **7.** Employees of NEWSQUEST Media Group and subsidiary companies and members of their families are not eligible to enter the competition. **8.** Address entries to FTB, Newspaper House, Test Lane, Southampton, SO16 9JX in a sealed envelope. Understamped entries are not accepted. **9.** Prize monies are held for and on behalf of winners. **10.** Do not send cash in the post. **11.** Winners will be required to participate in publicity. **12.** Photocopies not accepted. **13.** For rules go to www.dailyecho.co.uk/promotions/rules, www.newsquest.co.uk/terms or write in for a copy. **14.** If you pay by cheque your prize money will be paid to you once cheque has cleared.

An incident in a Winchester v. Whitechurch match

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22 November, 2014

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Non-league Action

EASTLEIGH DERBY DELIGHT

EASTLEIGH recorded just their second away win of the Vanarama Conference season with a smash and grab 2-0 victory over Hampshire-rivals Aldershot Town at the Electrical Services Stadium today.

The opening goal on the brink of half-time saw Craig McAllister prod the ball across the line from yards out amongst a melee on the line.

Both side's players and the crowd alike had a pause of puzzlement to whether it had gone over the line or not before the referee adjudged it to be a goal, **writes PETER HOWARD.**

The Eastleigh second, amidst a flurry of efforts by the Shots in the second half, saw Stuart Fleetwood slam home from the penalty spot with aplomb after Jaydon Gibbs had handled in the box.

Aldershot never gave up and had a couple of penalty shout turned down themselves, but Eastleigh's defending was excellent as they extend their unbeaten run to seven matches in all competitions and are looking like real promotion contenders.

The opening ten minutes saw neither side stamp any authority on the match. Though, in that time, Fleetwood did register the first shot of the afternoon for both sides – his effort deflecting out for a corner from the edge of the box.

Shots, who'd had a busy week with an epic FA Cup win over Portsmouth on Wednesday, were building a good foundation of possession as the match ticked over 20 minutes. Goal hero from the 1-0 first round victory, Mark Molesley, fired well over from range as they looked to test keeper Ross Flitney.

The home side followed that pressure up with three successive corners. The first of which found midfielder Kieron Forbes just outside the area – his powerful first time shot was bravely intercepted by Stanley on the line, and it went out for another corner.

The next one was dealt with well by Flitney, with the Spitfires' goalkeeper punching away. The other was also ushered away by the organised Eastleigh defence.

The visitors remained calm under the pressure from their Hampshire rivals and created a few opportunities of their own. Michael Green fizzed a long range effort just past the Aldershot post and McAllister and James Constable linked well, with the latter blasting a shot at goal, but it was blocked.

As the game approached the half hour, Andy Scott's side won a free-kick 25-yards out after Naby Diallo was fouled. Sam Hatton bent it round the wall to the right, but Flitney was alert and impressively parried away.

It quickly broke to the other end and Jaydon Gibbs miss-timed an interception. However, the ball was moving too quickly for McAllister to get the ball under his spell.

Moments later a dangerous McAllister cross evaded everyone in the box, including the onrushing Eastleigh midfield and it bounced out harmlessly.

Eastleigh were beginning to press



NET GAIN: Blackfield & Langley's Mark Ford celebrates netting in the 3-0 FA Vase victory over Bemerton Heath Harlequins. Order no: 21656365

and impose themselves on the game. On 37 minutes a last ditch tackle by former Salisbury City defender Glenn Wilson stopped Constable from going one-on-one.

Some great build-up play then forced Shots stopper Phil Smith to come away from his goal in an attempt to smother the ball.

But Eastleigh kept the ball away from him and after one blocked attempt, Jai Reason curled another one narrowly wide.

On the brink of interval, the Spitfires' pressure told in curious circumstances. If there ever was a call for goal-line technology at this level this was it. Fleetwood made a jinking run into the Aldershot box from the right side – as he entered the box he squared.

McAllister was alert and saw the opportunity to prod the ball goalwards, inches away from the outstretched Smith. The ball was adjudged by the assistant referee to have crossed the line as Smith attempted to push it away from the goal, 1-0.

As the goal was given, there were unanimous confused looks across the Electrical Services Stadium. The 162 travelling fans broke into delayed celebration, but there was little doubt in the officials mind that it had crossed the line.

After the break Aldershot went on the hunt for a leveller. Leaping highest from a corner, Dan Holman's header snuck narrowly wide of the post and some good work, saw Gibbs's cross deflected narrowly wide of Flitney's goal.

It wasn't all Shots, though. Reason collected a Green ball over the top, his square ball is knocked out for corner. Smith then held the resulting kick.

McAllister, proving difficult for the home defence to deal with, then laid off to Reason on the edge. His curled low shot going narrowly wide. Moments later Eastleigh were on the attack again, it ending in Constable slamming into the side-netting.

The home crowd rallied behind their team, demanding an equaliser. But it was Eastleigh who were closest to doubling their lead. A Reason free-kick deep on the right pinged around the box and eventually came off the post.

It's cleared for a corner and, after three consecutive corners, stopper Smith is able to collect in and end the Spitfires assault.

Immediately from that Diallo finds himself one-on-one with Flitney, but the goalkeeper rushed out to ensure that Eastleigh's lead is maintained.

Just past the hour mark, Richard Hill's side got their second. Much to

the dismay of the home fans, a Green cross was deemed to have hit Gibbs's hand as he rushed to cover the box.

Referee Adam Hopkins was in no doubt and pointed to the spot. Fleetwood made no mistake from 12-yards, dispatching a powerful kick to the right of Smith.

Aldershot became increasingly frustrated and had calls waved away for a tackle in the box by Paul Reid on Holman.

Substitute Joe N'Guessan almost scored with his first touch, but his tame shot was well held by Flitney.

Aldershot weren't giving up and were pushing all the way to get back into it. They were thwarted time and time again.

Eastleigh protected their lead, though. N'Guessan had an effort fly just wide from the edge of the box and Forbes tried his luck again from just outside box, but Flitney is again alert and saves.

Attendance: 1737, including 162 Eastleigh fans.

Eastleigh: Ross Flitney, Dan Spence, Michael Green, Craig Stanley, James Constable (Jamie Collins 90), Jai Reason, Craig McAllister (Jack Midson 73), Stuart Fleetwood (Chris Todd 90), Ben Strevens, Will Evans, Paul Reid (c). Subs not used: Yemi Odubade, Ben Wright.

Aldershot: Phil Smith, Joe Oastler, Glenn Wilson (c), Sam Hatton (Joe N'Guessan 75), Mark Molesley, Brett Williams, Jaydon Gibbs, Kieron Forbes, Naby Diallo, Manny Oyeleke (Andre McCollin 66), Dan Holman. Subs not used: Dan Thomas, Dan Fitchett, Tom Derry.



CLINCHER: Stuart Fleetwood.

Diaper targets a league win

SHOLING boss Dave Diaper is targeting his first league win since returning to management – and the play-offs.

The Boatmen return to Southern League (S & W) action at the Silverlake Arena today on the back of two impressive cup wins away from home.

After 2-0 victories at Weymouth in the Red Insure Cup and at Norfolk outfit Dereham Town on Tuesday night in the FA Trophy, Sholing are preparing to welcome Mangotsfield United to Portsmouth Road.

It is fifth-from-bottom Sholing's second league game since Diaper returned to management following the departure of Mick Marsh last month. And after losing at home to Tiverton a fortnight ago, Diaper is hoping that his team's cup form will be evident this afternoon.

He said: "There are still a lot of points to play for and we're quite capable of putting a run together. We have to set our standards and our aspirations high.

"I'm fed up with people saying we're happy just to stay in



DAVE DIAPER

the league. I want to get in the play-offs and that's a realistic target. We were bottom two years ago and still finished in the top six. There's no reason why we can't do the same again.

"Six months is not a long time but I'm dealing with a very different squad of players to before. It's one of less ability but big hearts, the players give everything and their attitude has been spot on, the work rate's been excellent and it was a vintage performance from them at Dereham."

But Diaper has injury problems: "Lee Webber's still got a cut leg, Dan Miller was injured in the first game against Dereham last Saturday, TJ Cuthbertson's hurt his foot and Sam Olaofe hurt his back on Tuesday so he'll be missing too."

But despite that, Diaper was happy to let defender Stuart Mott join AFC Totton this week.

"I never stand in the way of players who want to go and he was unhappy after being left out last Saturday," said Diaper. "Being a good manager Steve saw an opportunity to sign a player he likes and Stuart takes his football very seriously.

"And Micky Byrne did extremely well at Dereham."

Adam Rant



This week's big talking points
with **Adam Leitch**

Big news, but little impact...

AN EXTENDED international break with no domestic games to focus on, a possible move to Tottenham and a recent bout of publicity has proved the perfect storm for Paul Mitchell's departure from Saints to get blown out of all proportion.

It is staggering how much attention this story has got.

Normally it's the kind of thing that would barely make the Daily Echo, even with a minimum of two or three pages of Saints coverage every single day, let alone a national newspaper.

And yet Mitchell eventually handing in his notice, having been heavily linked

with joining Mauricio Pochettino at Tottenham, has been big news.

Firstly, it's worth putting on the record that Mitchell has done a really good job for Saints in three years with the club, and his departure will be a blow. Nobody should pretend otherwise or seek to rewrite history and play down his influence.

However, you would have thought it was the manager or a player going with the brouhaha that has been created.

Mitchell is in charge of a massive department, with a big budget and many talented staff that deal with every aspect of scouting and analysis.

As Mitchell himself said it

is them and not he that deserve the credit for how well Saints have done in the transfer market.

Likewise, it is not his fault Saints have also signed Vegard Forren, Saphir Taider, Dani Osvaldo and Gaston Ramirez since he has been at the club, as many have seemed to have overlooked, which just proves this is never an exact science.

Of course Mitchell was an important cog in the machine, but Saints have set themselves up so that the departure of one person will not destroy them. It is sad he is leaving, but please don't think this will make as big an impact as some have painted out.



COG IN THE MACHINE:
Paul Mitchell

Court out by ATP

UNLESS you had tickets to see Roger Federer up against Stan Wawrinka in the semi-finals of the ATP World Tour Finals you may have felt incredibly short changed by recent events at the O2.

Adam Rant is a regular at tennis events but, even with this being relatively on the doorstep, finds it hard to make the commitment for the finals because of the format and the price.

You are looking at paying around £60 for a ticket for much of the time to get a semi-reasonable view of the action, and what you are being offered just doesn't seem value for money.

You get one doubles match, which most tennis fans view as just a bit of fun, and then one singles match.

This is only the best of three and so, as we saw repeatedly this year, it can be over in the blink of eye.

The matches this year

were generally incredibly one sided.

It was only that clash between Federer (pictured) and Wawrinka that really entertained, before the ultimate deflation of Federer pulling out before the final could even get underway.

The format is unlikely to be reviewed as people pay the money and turn up and so it is a big money spinner for the ATP.

But it would be no surprise if some folk decided after this year not to rush for tickets again next time round.

When you bear in mind you can go abroad to an ATP Masters 1000 tournament and watch an entire day of these guys playing at much closer quarters for half the price you realise just how pricey this event is in comparison.

Sport always has to deliver value for money.

One good match out of 15 is not great odds.



NATHANIEL CLYNE

Nat's the way to do it, Clyne

Nathaniel Clyne should have well and truly nailed down the England right back spot.

It was terrific to see Clyne go out and play for England exactly as he has done for Saints and not to be overawed by the occasion.

All right, against Slovenia he was not exactly up against great opposition, but he still settled in so quickly.

Against Scotland he had a moderately tougher test and again did well.

His attacking prowess from right back was such that at times he actually looked like England's most dangerous threat.

It is a rare thing to come straight into a high profile new environment like that and to instantly look so settled but Clyne managed it and so well done to him. England have chopped and changed in that position in recent years, and most Saints fans would say Clyne should have had at least a couple more caps before now anyway.

But his performances demand that Roy Hodgson sticks with him and gives him an extended run in the side as the England right back unless fitness or a dramatic loss of form hit.

When you find a gem you must have faith and trust and belief in them and give them a fair crack of the whip. Clyne has earned that.

CYCLO-CROSS PICTURE SPECIAL - SEE PAGES 36-37

Adam Rant



This week's big talking points
with **Adam Leitch**

IT'LL BE A STRETCH FOR SAINTS

WE HAVE well and truly revelled in Saints' success so far this season but the real test is just around the corner.

On Monday night Saints return to Premier League action as they travel to face Aston Villa.

That game comes before a triple header of Manchester City, Arsenal and Manchester United.

It also marks the start of potentially 16 games in two calendar months – depending on cup progress – and at the very least 11 games in 42 days, an average of a game less than every four days.

This Premier League season is truly crazy in terms of scheduling.

Here we are at the back end of November with just 11 league matches played so far, thanks to three international breaks already, and now the fixtures are simply being crammed in at a ludicrous rate. Every team is going to suffer injuries and suspensions during this run. It is utterly inevitable that Saints will too.

Just how they cope, and how they deal with facing some of the Premier League's giants, is going to define their season.

Before looking too far ahead, it's important not to underestimate the importance of the Aston Villa game.

WINNABLE

If you take an overview of the fixture list then you have to say this is the last game of a run of matches that look winnable. Even being away from home, with the form Saints have been in and with Villa suffering pretty much the opposite, you have to fancy Ronald Koeman's men.

If they can pull off another win and bag another three points it will be vital.

It will just restart that momentum and belief again after the international break, as well as maintain that little point cushion they have built over a number of sides.

On top of that, it really allows them to go into that run of games against the Manchester clubs and Arsenal with the pressure very much off.

Koeman can say that Saints have pretty much achieved as much as could ever have been hoped for in those winnable matches, by virtue of the fact they have won almost all of them.

It allows them to still have an underdog mentality against these massive sides and to play with freedom and to express themselves.

Saints will not change their game for anybody, which has been such an endearing part of Koeman's philosophy since taking over at the club, but if they have no fear of defeat it makes victory all the more possible.

In a one off game you wouldn't worry about Saints coming up against anybody at the

moment. Realistically they are not going to win every game between now and the end of the season, but if they can get a decent haul from that triple header on the back of a victory of Villa then what an amazing position

they will be in.

These two months are going to be very different for the club.

Koeman has spoken before about the benefit his side have had by not playing in Europe.

It has allowed them generally a full week to recover from one match and to prepare for the next.

That has helped heal any niggling injuries and allowed Koeman to work on things on the training ground.

The simple maths of the upcoming run tells you they won't have that luxury.

As such the squad is bound to get stretched.

If Adam Rant has one fear for Saints it is exactly that.

The first team will give anybody a game, but you don't have to scratch too far below the surface to start to get a little concerned.

There are some positions, such as centre half and central midfield, which you don't worry about too much.

But the attacking midfield and striker positions are more troublesome.

Shane Long has generally been the man who has had to start on the bench when everybody else is fit and firing and is a more than able player to come into a multitude of positions, but when you go beyond him and with James Ward-Prowse and Jay Rodriguez still out, the cupboard looks a little more bare.

Likewise, Graziano Pelle is likely to get a one game ban at some stage having already massed four yellow cards this season, and his absence would be a huge loss.

It's not only his goals and physical presence, but the fact that, like Rickie Lambert before him, he is so integral to the way Saints play. Long can fill that gap, but it would mean a change in style, which of course is never that easy to adapt to when you don't have that full week to work on it at Staplewood.

It's why this is such a crucial stage of the season.

If Saints can come through this still doing well, still riding high in the table, then you have to, simply have to, believe that they are going to achieve something special this season.

But what is for sure is that their credentials are going to be well and truly examined in the coming weeks.

It's all rather exciting.



ON THE CARDS: Graziano Pelle is likely to get a ban at some stage

Aussie fan's twist of fate

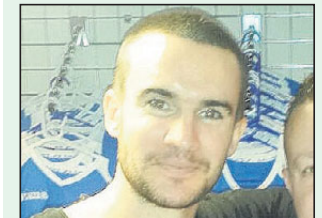
HE HAD travelled more than 20,000 miles around the globe on a football odyssey. From his native Australia, across three continents, from the world's greatest stadiums to run-down favelas, Trevor Foy had almost completed his football mission.

So when the Saints fan was invited to round off his marathon travels with a once-in-a-lifetime trip to one of Hampshire's fastest rising non-league clubs, he delayed his return home.

But his dreams suffered a cruel twist of fate when Eastleigh's home Vanarama Conference match was postponed at the last minute following a fire in visiting team Lincoln City's hotel.

Trevor was talked into watching the Spitfires by Saints fans he met in Southampton during his five month round-the-world trip which he is chronicling on his Aussie Saints FC social media accounts.

The 26-year-old from Melbourne has followed Eastleigh's progress since 2009 after learning many



TREVOR FOY

Saints supporters watch them when the Premier League stars play away from home. He initially left his home city in June heading to the World Cup Finals in Brazil before travelling through South America and Europe distributing Saints shirts and merchandise to children along the way.

He flew to England from Turkey the day before opening Premier League game to Liverpool and has watched every single Saints game since.

He was due to fly back last Monday but delayed his flight until Friday to watch the Spitfires.

But Trevor's plans appeared to turn sour when he arrived at Eastleigh's Silverlake stadium to be told the game was off.

He said: "It was a much more impressive stadium than what I was expecting."

"It was then that we were relayed the news of the hotel fire and subsequent delay by the friendly staff on the front gate."

"So with two hours to kill, I did what any good Australian in my position would do, I found the bar!"

But the trip was not in vain, as he was able to meet the club's manager Richard Hill in the afternoon.

ROMSEY MINI HOCKEY PHOTOGRAPHS - SEE PAGES 40-41

Saints Spotlight



SAINTS' FIRST TEAM FIXTURES AND RESULTS 2014/15

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
AUGUST														
Sat 17 Liverpool	L 1-2	Forster	Clyne 1	Fonte	Yoshida	Bertrand	Schneiderlin	Wanyama	Tadic*	S Davis**	W-Prowse	Pelle	Long*	Isgrove**
Sat 23 West Brom	D 0-0	Forster	Clyne	Fonte	Yoshida	Bertrand	Schneiderlin	Wanyama	Tadic	S Davis*	W-Prowse**	Pelle	Long*	Cork**
Tues 26 Millwall (LC 2)	W 2-0	Forster	Clyne	Fonte	Yoshida	Targett	S Davis	Wanyama**	Isgrove*	Long***	W-Prowse	Pelle 1	Tadic*	Cork 1**
Sat 30 West Ham	W 3-1	Forster	Clyne	Fonte	Yoshida	Bertrand	Schneiderlin 2	S Davis	Tadic	W-Prowse**	Long*	Pelle 1	Ramirez**	Ramirez***
SEPTEMBER														
Sat 13 Newcastle	W 4-0	Forster	Clyne	Fonte	Alderweireld	Bertrand	Cork 1***	Schneiderlin 1	S Davis	Tadic**	Long*	Pelle 2	Wanyama*	Gardos***
Sat 20 Swansea	W 1-0	Forster	Clyne	Fonte	Yoshida*	Bertrand	Cork**	Schneiderlin	W-Prowse**	Tadic	Long	Pelle	Gardos*	S Davis**
Tues 23 Arsenal (LC3)	W 2-1	Forster	Clyne 1	Fonte	Gardos	Targett**	Wanyama	Schneiderlin	S Davis	Tadic 1	Mane*	Pelle	Long*	Bertrand**
Sat 27 QPR	W 2-1	Forster	Clyne	Fonte	Alderweireld	Bertrand 1	Wanyama**	Schneiderlin	S Davis	Tadic***	Mane*	Pelle 1	Long*	Cork**
OCTOBER														
Sun 5 Tottenham	L 0-1	Forster	Clyne	Fonte	Alderweireld	Bertrand	Wanyama*	Schneiderlin	S Davis	Tadic	Mane	Pelle	Long*	Mayuka***
Sat 18 Sunderland	W 8-0	Forster	Clyne	Fonte	Alderweireld	Bertrand	Cork 1	Schneiderlin	S Davis*	Tadic 1	Long**	Pelle 2**	Wanyama 1*	Mane**
Sat 25 Stoke	W 1-0	Forster	Clyne	Fonte	Alderweireld	Bertrand	Cork*	Schneiderlin	S Davis**	Tadic	Mane 1	Pelle	Wanyama*	Gardos**
Weds 29 Stoke (LC4)	W 3-2	Forster	Clyne	Fonte	Gardos**	Targett	Wanyama	Schneiderlin	S Davis*	Tadic	Long 1	Pelle 2	Cork*	Alderweireld**
NOVEMBER														
Sat 1 Hull	W 1-0	Forster	Clyne	Fonte	Alderweireld	Bertrand	Wanyama 1	Schneiderlin	S Davis	Tadic**	Long*	Pelle	Mane*	Cork**
Sat 8 Leicester	W 2-0	Forster	Clyne	Fonte	Alderweireld	Bertrand	Wanyama	Schneiderlin***	S Davis*	Tadic	Mane**	Pelle	Cork*	Long** 2
Mon 24 Aston Villa														Reed***
Sun 30 Man City														
DECEMBER														
Weds 3 Arsenal														
Mon 8 Man United														
Sat 13 Burnley														
Tues 16 Sheff Utd (LC5)														
Sat 20 Everton														
Fri 26 Crystal Palace														
Sat 28 Chelsea														
JANUARY														
Thurs 1 Arsenal														
Sun 11 Man United														
Sat 17 Newcastle														
FEBRUARY														
Sun 1 Swansea														
Sat 7 QPR														
Tues 10 West Ham														
Sat 21 Liverpool														
Sat 28 West Brom														
MARCH														
Tue 3 Crystal Palace														
Sat 14 Chelsea														
Sat 21 Burnley														
APRIL														
Sat 4 Everton														
Sat 11 Hull														
Sat 18 Stoke														
Sat 25 Tottenham														
MAY														
Sat 2 Sunderland														
Sat 9 Leicester														
Sat 16 Aston Villa														
Sun 24 Man City														

Toure keeps heat on Saints

YAYA Toure responded to Manuel Pellegrini's rallying call as he fired champions Manchester City to a 2-1 Barclays Premier League win over Swansea, keeping the pressure on second-placed Saints.

The City midfielder, pictured, below par for much of the season but continually backed by boss Pellegrini, powered forward to strike the winner just after the hour at the Etihad Stadium – taking City to within a point of Ronald Koeman's Saints.

City had needed to respond after Wilfried Bony struck early for the visitors with a sublime piece of skill inside the area. Stevan Jovetic grabbed the equaliser before City upped the tempo and Toure, in typical style, charged forward to settle the contest.

Pellegrini's men face a visit to St Mary's in their next league on November 30 (1.30pm).



	LA	LG	CA	CG	CSA	CSG		LA	LG	CA	CG	CSA	CSG		LA	LG	CA	CG	CSA	CSG
ARTUR BORUC	0	0	0	0	50	0	NATHANIEL CLYNE	11	1	3	1	72(5)	4	SAM GALLAGHER	0	0	0	0	3(17)	2
CODY CROPPER	0	0	0	0	0	0	JACK CORK	4(5)	2	0(2)	1	126(22)	3	SHANE LONG	5(5)	2	2(1)	0	7(6)	2
KELVIN DAVIS	0	0	0	0	292(1)	0	HARRISON REED	0(1)	0	0	0	1(8)	0	EMMANUEL MAYUKA	0(1)	0	0	0	3(11)	1
FRASER FORSTER	11	0	3	0	14	0	MORGAN SCHNEIDERLIN	11	3	2	0	213(31)	13	GRAZIANO PELLE	11	6	3	3	14	9
PAULO GAZZANIGA	0	0	0	0	18(1)	0	VICTOR WANYAMA	6(4)	3	3	0	29(8)	3	JAY RODRIGUEZ	0	0	0	0	59(17)	26
RYAN BERTRAND	11	1	0(1)	0	11(1)	1	STEVEN DAVIS	10(1)	0	3	0	70(18)	6							
MATT TARGETT	0(1)	0	3	0	3(1)	0	LLOYD ISGROVE	0(1)	0	1	0	2(2)	0							
JOSE FONTE	11	0	3	0	191(5)	13	SAM MCQUEEN	0	0	0	0	0(1)	0							
FLORIN GARDOS	0(3)	0	2	0	2(3)	0	GASTON RAMIREZ	0(1)	0	0(1)	0	27(23)	8							
TOBY ALDERWEIRELD	7	0	0(1)	0	7(1)	0	DUSAN TADIC	11	1	2(1)	1	13(1)	2							
MAYA YOSHIDA	4	0	1	0	51(1)	2	SADIO MANE	4(2)	1	1	0	5(2)	1							
JACK STEPHENS	0	0	0	0	0(1)	0	JAMES WARD-PROWSE	4(1)	0	1	0	35(31)	1							

KEY: LA: league appearances. LG: league goals. CA: cup appearances. CG: cup goals. CSA: career Saints appearances. CSG: career Saints goals.

Non-league Football

WHO WILL CATCH THE JAM BOYS?

AT the beginning of the season many would have scoffed at the idea of a Winchester City manager aiming to chase down Whitchurch United at the top of the Sydenhams Wessex Premier.

But that is exactly what is happening in the Sydenhams top flight this term.

City were dubbed favourites for the title at the beginning of the campaign, with Danny Robinson and Tim Cole bringing in a range of talent from their former club Alresford.

But none of the Wessex managers polled by the *Sports Pink* even mentioned Carl Bennett's Jam Boys as title contenders.

And yet it is Church who have sat top of the league during the whole of November so far.

Robinson and Cole have since been replaced at City by Paul Masters, who has won three of his five games in charge so far and is nine points behind Whitchurch with three games in hand.

The Jam Boys were

promoted with Brockenhurst in 2012/13 and finished 13th in their first season in the Wessex top flight last season.

There was little indication of what was to come from the village club.

Bennett, below, was in charge of relegated Romsey at the end of last season but has clearly put that disappointment behind him.

He drafted in a number of ex-Bypass boys as well as a few youngster from Southern League Sholing. Since then they've gone from strength to strength and have been beaten just three times in 18 games.

But Masters has set his sights firmly on chasing them down.

"We're taking every game as it comes but now we need to go on an unbeaten run to get back in the title mix," he said after winning 5-1 at Verwood Town last Saturday.

"We were ten per cent off the pace in the first half but came out and played really well.

After equalising 20 minutes into the second half, there was only going to be one winner.

"We ground them down."



ON THE BALL: Whitchurch's Ben Thompson in action against Christchurch earlier this month.



Non-league News

Hampshire football's in mourning for John

HAMPSHIRE football is mourning the loss of a pillar of its community.

John Stimpson, a well known figure in local football, passed away on Wednesday morning following a short battle with illness.

Stimpson was a ground grading officer for the Wessex league and served on the league management committee as a club representative for more than 20 years.

In 2011, when the Wessex League disbanded its combination divisions, he spearheaded the formation of the Wyvern Combination League and was elected chairman.

Stimpson also made a huge impact at Gosport Borough during his time as chairman there.

So much so that he became life president at the Conference South club.

He was also chairman of Petersfield Town and was well-known throughout the football community.

A testament to that was the messages of condolences that flooded in from all corners of local football.

Gosport released a statement on their website that said: "It is with great regret that Gosport Borough announce the loss of life president and former chairman John Stimpson.

"John, who in his time as chairman was influential in the appointments of both Mick Marsh and Alex Pike – two managers that turned the fortunes of The Boro' around – passed away this morning after a short illness.

"All at the club will miss John enormously and we send our heartfelt thoughts to Jan and his family at this sad time."

A flurry of respects were made on social media website Twitter. Former Winchester City manager Danny Robinson tweeted:

"Just heard about the passing of John Stimpson. Very sad. RIP."

Sholing boss Dave Diaper said: "Sad to see the passing of John Stimpson, John was a fine man who will be missed by many. Thoughts are with his family at this sad time. RIP."

A few clubs announced they would hold silences prior to match today.

Meanwhile, the Wessex league sent their condolences to his wife Jan and his family. Funeral arrangements have yet to be announced.

Doswell and Baird sign ex-Saint White

FORMER Saints youngster Jamie White has been released by Vanarama Conference side Bristol Rovers and is set to join up with ex-Eastleigh managers Ian Baird and Paul Doswell at Sutton United.

The one time Winchester City, Eastleigh and Salisbury City marksman had signed for the Gas at the beginning of the season but had found chances to play limited – playing 12 times, scoring none.

It was announced earlier this week that his contract had been cancelled with immediate effect, allowing him to sign for Vanarama

South Sutton – who have Doswell as manager and Baird as head coach.

That means he will follow other ex-Spittfires Daniel Wishart, who signed from Hayes & Yeading last week, and Glen Southam, last season's captain who help Richard Hill's side to the Conference South title.

The 24-year-old, who averaged a goal every other game while at the Whites, was at the

Saints academy as an eight-year-old and went on to make his first team debut in 2008.

He made three appearances for Saints in total before he

was shipped-out to Shrewsbury Town, where he netted his first senior goal.

Injury plighted the next part of his career. He went through a broken leg, a dislocated ankle and a cruciate injury to the other knee.

White was at Eastleigh, initially on loan in 2009, before staying at the Silverlake Stadium after being released by Saints in May 2010 until December that year.

A time playing in Australia followed, but he soon returned to England.

In 2011/12 he net-

ted 54 goals for Winchester, just one short of the Sydenhams Premier Division record.

The quick forward then moved to Salisbury, where he helped them win the Conference South play-offs in 2013.

After leaving the Ray Mac he was snapped-up by Rovers but made just five starts and seven substitute appearances.

"Jamie has been frustrated by a lack of regular football and, to his credit, he has agreed to cancel his contract at no cost to the club," said Bristol manager Darrell Clarke.



Non-league Football

Non-league News

Vigar joins old boss

FORMER Romsey striker Craig Vigar has linked-up with his former boss Carl Bennett at Sydenhams Premier table-toppers Whitchurch United.

Bennett's high-flyers recruited another attacker, Lerone 'Rudy' Plummer, recently but have bolstered their numbers further by bringing the powerful frontman to Longmeadow.

Vigar, a former Hythe & Dibden, Totton & Eling and Laverstock & Ford player, attracted attention from Winchester City last term but was relegated with the Bypass Ground outfit last term.

He netted three times in 28 appearances in the Wessex for the struggling Romsey side.

Magpies get Mulhern

FORMER Lymington Town, Hythe & Dibden and AFC Portchester midfielder John Mulhern has signed for Alresford Town.

The Magpies have lured Mulhern to Alresbury Park after he was registered with both Port and Hythe this campaign. Mulhern also had a spell at New Milton Town.

Town pay respects

PETERSFIELD Town paid their respects to a former player as part of their Remembrance Day events before their 4-1 victory over Totton & Eling at Love Lane last Saturday.

Striker Darren Chant, a Warrant Officer Class 1, was gunned down by a rogue policeman in Afghanistan in November 2009. He was a popular figure at Petersfield.

For the Totton match only they retired the No. 9 shirt as a mark of respect to their ex-player and the squad held the shirt during the minutes silence before the game.

After the match, in which former Sholing striker Warren Hunt netted a hat-trick and Alexander Lowley grabbed another, a toast was made to Chant and all of Petersfield's fallen servicemen.

Hunt collect the Darren Chant man-of-the-match tankard for his performance.

New keeper at B&L

BLACKFIELD & Langley have replaced goalkeeper Gareth Barfoot after his departure to Winchester City last month.

The former AFC Totton, Eastleigh and Gosport stopper left for the Denplan City Ground after the departure of Danny Robinson and Tim Cole.

Now John Robson has snapped up a replacement in the form of former Brockenhurst, City and Sholing stopper Scott O'Rourke, who has spent the last few seasons at the Badgers.

Kemp's praise for ex-Eastleigh ace Dillon

FORMER Winchester City manager Graham Kemp has praised ex-Eastleigh defender Chris Dillon for his performances since signing for Dorchester Town. The struggling

Southern League Premier Division side signed Dillon, who made 16 appearances and helped the Spitfires to the Conference South title last season, in September and Kemp picked out his first signing at his new charges for praise for his efforts so far at the Magpies.

Dillon and Kemp, left, go back a long way, having worked together at Sydenhams Premier outfit Christchurch before Dillon took up a scholarship in

the USA and then went on to play in Australia.

Kemp also gave praise to former Bashley player Matt Oldring.

This comes as the boss demanded greater power in player contracts at the Avenue. He believes players should be have stricter clauses in those deals to ensure more power to the club.

"When you've got players who are injured for a month, three weeks or two weeks, you've still got to

pay them," he said.

"Contracts should be that if you are injured you get half your money.

"There have to be stipulations in the contracts where players don't get paid full money if they are injured. At the moment, the contracts are 100 per cent in the players' favour."

He added: "Unlike other clubs, it wasn't put into their contracts that they got half their money if they were injured or didn't play."

Kemp laid down his expectations for the rest of the campaign.

"The best we can hope for next year is to be in this league," said the onetime Denplan City Ground boss.

"Staying in the league is the priority but I want us to finish in the top half of the table.

"My initial target was the play-offs rather than where we are now.

"I admit things haven't gone as we would have liked."

PHILLIPS IS FUMING AT ROMSEY'S CUP UPSET

ROMSEY Town head coach James Phillips slammed his side's poor performance after they were beaten 1-0 by lower league opposition in the Southampton Senior Cup.

The Sydenhams One outfit endured a miserable time against Hampshire Premier League high-flyers Hamble Club, *writes Peter Howard.*

And Phillips was not in a forgiving mood.

"It was an extremely poor performance today", the young boss, pictured, said.

"Over the past couple of months I've almost got used to saying how our performances have been very good and that we've been unfortunate in the results that we've had.

"But not today, today we got

exactly what we deserved. Although I brought in five lads today I honestly believed that the side had enough about them to beat Hamble but I was wrong.

"I said to their management team afterwards that they were the better side and fully deserved their win. We had no excuses.

"To be honest I feel very, very disappointed. We had good numbers through the gate supporting the lads again and we didn't deliver them a performance, let alone a result and that it's simply not good enough.

"We've received criticism for being naive recently and, to a certain extent, with a young developing team I can take that.

"But the belief in the philosophy I and the club have didn't cost us today, it was far too many poor performances individually and

then collectively that cost us."

On a pitch that only scraped past an inspection, both teams struggled to get any sort of foothold in the game.

Hamble were far more determined than the Bypass boys, who were looking to put their recent poor league form behind them.

In a first half that saw very few chances created, only Indrit Elezi and Kadeem Price for Town showed any real threat to breaking down a solid Hamble back line.

At the back Town looked uncomfortable with Hamble's direct forward line and were twice lucky not to concede after failing to deal with direct balls.

After the break the flow of the game continued in Hamble's favour.

But Hamble's keeper had to

react smartly from an effort from Price and tipped over well from Josh Ramsey's shot from the edge of the box.

With neither side seriously looking like breaking the deadlock, the game went to extra time.

And after a dull first period of extra time, the game finally burst into life.

With the prospect of penalties looming, both sides pushed for a winner.

Romsey forced a series of corners before Hamble brought a smart save from George Passingham.

With just two minutes remaining Brad Dewick hit the bar for Town.

The subsequent break away saw Hamble pile forward and they scored the winner to send them through to the next round.

Non-league Football



VASE FEVER AT FOLLAND

ASHLEY Jarvis's FA Vase fever has well and truly rubbed-off on the rest of his Folland Sports teammates.

The striker won the Vase with Sholing last season and he has been regaling the rest of the Planemakers team with tales of the Boatmen's march to Wembley glory.

And that is only a good thing in the eyes of Folland boss Danny Bowers, who is hoping the rest of team will catch the Vase bug.

The Folland boss plans to go big in the cup competition with the prize of a dream match the home of football.

Bowers has got his team buzzing ahead of their second round proper match against Cornish side St Austell today.

The Carlsberg South West Peninsula League Premier Division fourth placed side won't be an easy prospect, having won 13 games in a row.

"Jarvis's experiences have really rubbed-off on the rest of the team," Bowers said. "He's been there and done it."

"I want to emulate what Sholing did."

"We've all seen what is possible and I know a lot of the other local teams will want to do the same."

"We're going to be prepared as best as possible for their visit."

"I know they will be a big strong side, but we've come off the back of a good victory against Newport and we're running off that positive."

"I'd of liked to have played again in midweek to keep up that momentum

going into Saturday.

It is Bowers' aim to go on a cup run, but he isn't forgetting the club's progress in the Wessex Premier, where they're currently sat ninth.

"We're flying beneath the radar a bit at the moment in the league," he said.

"There are some good teams in the league but we're unbeaten in a while and have four or five games in hand, so that makes us just off the pack at the moment."

"We haven't been beaten since we played Eastleigh at beginning of October, apart from the cup defeat to Newport, so we're going all right at the minute."

That run has seen Bowers' boys beaten just once in seven games.

The manager expects his Planemakers to really take off after the festive period - as they've done in previous season.

"We're usually very good after Christmas," he said.

"I'd expect us to be up there in the mix come the end of the season."

A debut goal for new striker Nathan Lynch marked the 2-1 win at Newport IOW that saw Jarvis pounce for a late winner after the Islanders equalised in the second half.

In other news, Folland have signed winger Wayne Boud from Fareham are looking to bring more new faces in soon.

VASE STAR: Ashley Jarvis made it to Wembley with Sholing last season.



Non-league News

Poore is left fuming

VERWOOD boss Carl Poore was furious with some of the decisions made against his side during the 5-1 defeat to Winchester City last Saturday.

"Take nothing away from Winchester, they deserved their victory, but if the officials had got their decisions right, we would have been 2-0 up against nine men," he said.

"Nine times out of ten you would not expect us to beat them but when the opportunity arises you need decisions to go your way."

The referee did not get many correct and it cost us.

"Some of the calls were just mind-boggling."

"They got on top of the referee and we did not do enough of that. Maybe we should."

"I do not like the idea of it but we are scrapping away at the wrong end of the table."

If officials are going to buckle in that manner then we have to make sure we are on the right end of it.

"Winchester are a big club with a big reputation and they ran the game."

"If they can get away with it, why can't we?"

Douglas back at Town

FAREHAM Town have welcomed back goalkeeper Luke Douglas to Cams Alders.

The popular player had been at AFC Portchester only two months after leaving the Creeksiders at the start of September after being there since 2009.

But he has now returned for another spell, with Lloyd Thomas taking the keeper's jersey at Port.

Former New Milton Town and Blackfield and Langley player, Sam Kirkwood, has also joined Fareham.

Gazz helps out at Lymo

LYMINGTON Town manager John Pyatt has joined forces once more with a familiar face.

Paul Gazzard, who was co-boss with Pyatt at Bashley last term, has been reunited with his old colleague at Lymington.

Gazzard was a stalwart with more than a decade's service at Bash.

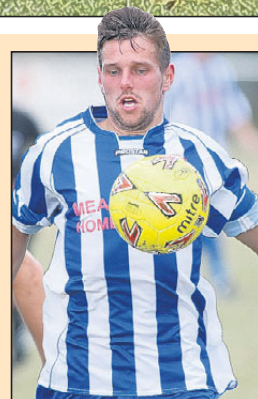
The pair quit together in May from the New Forest club that was eventually relegated from the Southern Premier Division.

Burford is back in Port

NEWPORT IOW have re-signed Aaron Burford.

Burford last played for the St. George's Park club during the 2011-12 season and also played for Brading Town that campaign.

Elsewhere, Bournemouth Poppies have signed Jonathan Watt for the fourth consecutive season.



HAT-TRICK HERO: Mark Barker hit a treble for Brock in their win over Whitchurch.

Commitment issue is sorted

BROCKENHURST manager Pat McManus hopes the Badgers have turned a corner after he held meeting with players about ongoing commitment problems.

McManus has led his side to sixth in the Sydenhams Premier Division this season but has had to that with a thin squad.

On top of that, availability issues have led to the Brock boss being short on numbers on quite a few occasions this term.

But McManus hopes things will change after a shake-up meeting prior to beating table toppers Whitchurch United 3-0.

The boss had several reasons to smile after they halted Carl Bennett's Jam Boys juggernaut with a dominant display at Longmeadow.

With a full roster of players to choose from, as well as a return from long term injury for goalkeeper Sam Cousins, McManus delivered exactly what he expects of his squad when they're fully committed to the Brock cause.

"We had a conversation," he explained. "It was basically to say that football has to be the priority and not to make arrangements over playing football. We can match anyone

in this league when we have everyone available."

When asked whether he thought the meeting had sunk into the squad, he said: "I hope so"

"It was a fantastic result, but we had a decent side out against Whitchurch, so I did expect to win."

"We didn't have a good side out against Winchester and there's little wonder we didn't do well."

At the beginning of the month Bennett's high fliers snatched a 1-0 win at Grigg Lane and McManus was eager to avenge for that defeat.

"I would say it was a dominant performance," he said. "We could have had a few more goals."

"In all honesty, Whitchurch are punching above their weight. They're very direct, very good at set pieces and a big, physical side."

"They play their pitch quite well and put a lot of ball over the top. But we're a very creative side and can keep the ball well, which we did."

Mark Barker smashed in his second hat-trick of the campaign for Brock as they inflicted a first home defeat of the season on the Jam Boys.

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Non-league Football



THREE-AND-A-HALF weeks after he was forced off early by a hamstring problem in Eastleigh's FA Cup win at Kidderminster Harriers, Jamie Collins sits down for this interview having just taken a full-part in the day's training session. His speedy recovery is a relief, for the 30 year-old has had his fill of sitting on the side-lines.

An injury sustained towards the end of the Spitfires' Conference South title winning season didn't only cost Collins his place for that campaign's final six matches (though the lingering disappointment of missing the run-in causes the midfielder's mind to play tricks on him as he reflects on the "downer" that was not being able to play "probably the last ten games of the season"), writes **PAUL MCNAMARA**.

The former Havant & Waterlooville man takes up the story: "I don't know the exact diagnosis (of the injury he picked up in the April 5 clash against Whitehawk).

"The tendon going from my quad into my knee – I had a grade three tear in that. I had it the previous season, but never really had a scan or was looked after while I was at Forest Green so I never really knew what the problem was.

"It was a massive blow (to miss the championship clinching fixtures). You're still part of it, but when the lads are celebrating it's hard to share that emotion. They've still got the adrenaline running through them from having played the game. But I still played a big part in it and it was still great to win it.

"I didn't have a scan until we came back. I didn't do anything over the summer or during pre-season."

Indeed, Collins' pre-season match action was restricted to a 17 minute outing against Crawley Town on July 26, even though he declares that at that stage he "wasn't fit" and the purpose of getting on to the pitch was simply to "see how it (the injury) reacted".

FAITH

It was some show of faith, then, when Spitfires boss Richard Hill selected the midfielder, with just one week's training under his belt, to play against Gateshead in the team's third game of the season on August 16. Collins, though, suggests that his manager has every right to be confident in all of his players' ability to return and hit the ground running.

"I hadn't really trained up until that point, but Stanners (Craig Stanley) had picked up an injury and the gaffer chucked me in. I felt very, very tired but it was good getting through the game, and since then that injury has been fine.

"It's obviously good to know that the manager trusts you. I think with the squad we've got, and the experience in there, he can do that with anyone. Some of the other boys have been out for six or seven weeks and come straight back into the team."

When he did get back into the fray, Collins linked up with an Eastleigh team that had emerged triumphant from its opening two fixtures. A spell of three wins in 12 followed – albeit five of those games ended all-square. Since losing at Barnet on October 4, however, the Spitfires have won five and drawn one in league and cup.

As part of the Newport County side that in 2010 made the same jump from Conference South into Conference Premier, Collins is well placed to judge his current side's start to life in non-league's top-tier.



COLLINS IS RARING TO GET BACK INTO THE ACTION

"We had a great first game of the season (winning 3-0 at Nuneaton), and then a great result against Aldershot (a 1-0 victory), but then we struggled in a couple of the bigger away games at Macclesfield and Wrexham where, I think, we were maybe a little bit too open. After making a relatively good start we had thought that if we conceded two we could always score three. Playing against some of the clubs (in this league) you're never going to do that.

"We maybe have gone a bit more direct than we were earlier on, but it seems to be working."

Collins' switch to the left of midfield from his usual spot in the middle has been an integral feature of the Spitfires' newly "solid" look. It is a role that the ex-Aldershot player has adapted to both effortlessly and extremely effectively.

"There's obviously quite a big difference (between playing the two positions). It's the first time I've ever really played that role. The manager wanted to do that

against Bristol Rovers (a game that Eastleigh drew 1-1 on September 30), in order to be a bit more solid. It seemed to work. We hit a lot of diagonal passes and I won a lot of headers.

"Stanners (who returned to the team against Bristol Rovers to take a berth in the centre of midfield) is a similar sort of player to myself. We try to break up play, put the ball in behind, and do the dirty stuff. He's done that the whole of his career and he's very good at it."

CREDIT

Typically, Collins, who is more self-effacing than his gregarious personality would suggest, deflects any credit for his side's terrific current vein of form towards one of his colleagues.

"For me, I think the main difference has been Craig McAllister coming back in. I think he gives us that big presence up-top. He wins a lot of headers and he puts his body on the line for the team. When he came in our form changed. That is all credit to him."

Even on the occasions when he has been unable to play this term, Collins has not been sat idle while his teammates put in the hard yards on the field. His periodic inactivity has allowed the Barking-born man to work as a match summariser for Radio Solent's live coverage of Eastleigh's games. Collins has been taken aback by the liking he has developed for his punditry assignments.

"The first time the gaffer asked me to do it, away at Nuneaton, I didn't really fancy it.

MORE EASTLEIGH AND OTHER NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL

League Football



KEY MAN: Eastleigh striker Jamie Collins celebrates scoring in the FA Trophy last season and, right, in the tick of the action against Nuneaton.



But I have really enjoyed it. Every time I've not been in the squad, or if I've been injured, I've volunteered to do it.

"Sitting there watching the game can be a little bit frustrating, but when you can speak about it and you hope people are listening it's easier to get through."

If the local radio were after some impartial analysis, it's fair to surmise that Collins might not have been their first port of call. His animated reaction to Ben Strevens' last-gasp FA Cup first-round winner against Lincoln City has become something of an internet hit. More importantly, Collins' genuine excitement at his team's victory proved that footballers, despite some unfair stereotyping, really do care about their profession.

"I think if you ask 99.9 per cent of footballers, they love the game. It's one of the best jobs in the world. Even though I'm injured I'm still part of the team. To get a last minute winner in the FA Cup is one of the best things you can do.

"I want to be out there playing, but if I'm not I want the team to win. It's no different to if I'm on the bench or dropped from the squad. I still want the team to win because I like all the boys and it's our job."

BANTER

That enthusiasm for football shines through in Collins' on-pitch demeanour, always playing with a smile on his face and fully immersed in his job. Asked if that reflects his feelings about the game, the player whose career path began at Watford, is unequivocal.

"I think training lasts probably an hour-and-a-half, two hours max a day. You're running around kicking a ball about and you're with a lot of your mates. There's a lot of banter flying about and you can do stuff that you

could never do in another job.

"I love it. I love the banter – although not so much the running! The banter side and getting around the lads is what makes football football."

No less plain than his passion for playing his chosen sport is Collins' mischievous nature which, he agrees, can come in handy in the heat of battle.

"I think it's a lot easier when you're winning to give opponents a little bit of stick. It is always nice to get a little reaction out of them. Sometimes it does change a game in your favour.

"I'm one of those players who will do anything to win a game. If that means bending the rules a little bit then so be it. That's just my personality really. I just like to talk!"

He also has a certain relish for goal-scoring. Moreover, Collins is prone to hitting the target at key moments.

"I don't score that many goals when I play in centre-midfield.

When I do score, though, they seem to be quite important goals. Last year it was Dover in the last minute in the FA Trophy (to win the game 3-2 and put Eastleigh through to the quarter-finals). I scored against Bath when we were down to ten men (the decisive goal in a 2-1 league victory).

"It's one of the best feelings in football scoring a goal. I get as much enjoyment when we keep a clean sheet, but when the goals do come it's a special feeling – especially when you don't score that many of them. The more I score the better it is for me and for the team."

Collins' three strikes so far this season have all been crucial towards the Spitfires accumulation of league points. Turning his thoughts towards the FA Cup, however, Hill's first recruit of summer 2013 is sensing the excitement building around his club.

Cup fever is something with which Collins is keenly familiar. Part of the Havant & Waterlooville team that dumped Swansea City out of the FA Cup on the way to an Anfield meeting with Liverpool in the 2008 competition, Collins' giant-killing pedigree doesn't end there.

Tentatively considering what would represent his favoured third round draw, should the Spitfires overcome Southport in their forthcoming second round tie, Collins initially plumps for the club he supports, West Ham. That is until he swiftly recalls: "I have played away at West Ham with Aldershot so I've done that."

He modestly neglects to mention that the Shots won that 2011 League Cup first round tie in front of a near 20,000 crowd at Upton Park. Indeed, Collins went on to feature in the fourth round tie when Manchester United brought the north Hampshire club's run to an end, thanks to goals scored by Dimitar Berbatov, Michael Owen and Luis Antonio Valencia.

After a pause Collins concludes that he'd like to pit his wits against another of the Premier League's superpowers this time around.

ARSENAL

"I'd probably say Arsenal away. You'd get 50,000 there and earn a bit of money for the club. The boys would get to play against a strong team – and I like collecting sporting memorabilia so I could add another shirt to the collection! It would be a great day out for the fans as well."

That is all speculation, though. Collins, speaking before Southport had toppled League Two Dagenham & Redbridge in a first round replay, acknowledged that whoever the Spitfires were to play next will provide tough opposition.

"We feel we can beat either side but, at their place, they will feel they can beat us. We'll be confident going into the game though. It's always exciting for a player in the FA Cup."

While the buzz of that competition – and all of its magical possibilities – provides a fascinating sideshow, it is Eastleigh's league position of 10th, but just four points off a play-off spot and with games in hand on every one of the teams above them, that is testament to the calibre of squad that Hill has assembled at the Silverlake Stadium.

"You look at the league table and it's a little bit false. It's very tight. We've got a couple of games in hand and if we win those then we can go third or fourth. The squad is strong. You look at the experience we've got through the side.

"For us to be up there in our first season, and it is still extremely early I know, but I can't see us fading away. If we can be there in the mix at the end of the season it would be a great achievement."

Follow me on twitter: @mcnamara_sport

RICHARD HILL

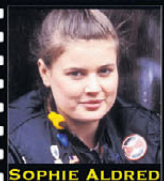


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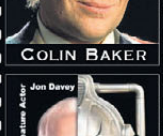
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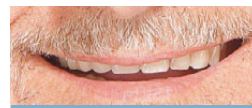


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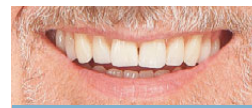
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Non-league Football

Non-league News

Eastleigh's new stand
EASTLEIGH are about to make more history.

The Spitfires are in the second round of the FA Cup for the first time and are also playing in the Vanarama Conference for the first time ever.

But on top of those recent landmarks the club have announced that the Silverlake Stadium will be capable of holding a record breaking crowd.

The Stoneham Lane outfit have already broken their record attendance by welcoming 2,621 people for the 1-1 league draw with Bristol Rovers in September.

But now they will be able to smash that with the opening of their new 2,290 seater south end stand.

The stand is soon to be officially opened once a safety certificate is granted.

B&L push their luck

BLACKFIELD & Langley were lucky to come away with victory against Overton United in the Russell Cotes Cup second round on Tuesday night.

The Puma Engineering Hampshire Premier League Senior side were 2-0 down at half to John Robson's outfit, but put up a brave fight against the Wessex Premier big guns.

Jake Rowley and Danilo Cadete gave the Watersiders a two-goal lead at the break.

Chris Lavisher pulled a goal back for the visitors, which set-up a tense finish.

Dean's transfer coup

HORNDEAN manager Dave Carter has completed a significant signing as former Portsmouth midfielder Ashley Harris moves to Fiveheads Park.

Harris did switch to Vanarama Conference South side Gosport Borough earlier this season from Fratton Park and has also previously served Havant & Waterlooville, Chelmsford City and Bognor Regis Town, all on loan from Portsmouth.

Kayne hits the target

FORMER Saints youngster Kayne McLaggon seems to have found his feet playing for Merthyr Town in Southern League South & West One this season.

The forward made eight appearances for Saints in the Championship in 2008/09, scoring one goal, was released by the club in the summer of 2010 after failing to recover from a ruptured achilles. He then did the non-league rounds, including spells at Salisbury City, Tonbridge Angels and Weston-super-Mare.

McLaggon then settled at the Welsh side last year in the same league as AFC Totton and Sholing.

This season he has scored eight goals.

Adie's still looking for home rule

CHRISTCHURCH boss Adie Arnold admitted his side's performances at their Hurn Bridge home have been their undoing this season.

Arnold's side have won just once at home this season and sit second to bottom of the Sydenhams Premier Division.

The struggling side salvaged a point at home to Fawley AFC last Saturday and the boss admitted to having mixed emotions after former Oiler Matt Vining grabbed a point late on for the hosts.

The visitors took the lead in the early stages when a free-kick was not dealt with and the ball was diverted home from close range by Ben Bolton.

Christchurch remained second bottom of the table following the 1-1 stalemate but Arnold's men have reduced the gap on 19th-placed Fareham to a single point.

Arnold, pictured, was pleased to avoid defeat but admitted there were

both positive and negative elements of the display to reflect on.

"We had to get something out of the game and I'm glad that we did," he told the *Pink's* sister paper the *Bournemouth Echo*.

"The disappointing thing is that we've had good performances away at top sides recently but we don't seem to be able to put those performances on at home.

"The first half was very poor. Individuals did not do their job from a set-piece and we went in at half-time 1-0 down.

"At one stage, we didn't look like we were going to get anything out of the game but I have to give the lads credit, they rolled up their sleeves and showed they had something about them.

"In the second half, we went for it more and, if we had scored 10 minutes earlier, we probably would have gone on to win the game."

Local and national football fixtures for the week ahead

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23

BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE
Crystal Palace v Liverpool, Hull v Tottenham Hotspur.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24

BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE
Aston Villa v Southampton.
VANARAMA CONFERENCE
South: Boreham Wood v Weston-S-Mare.
EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE
Premier Division: Hitchin v Dunstable.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE
Group E: CSKA Moscow v Roma, Man City v Bayern Munich.
Group F: Apoel Nicosia v Barcelona, PSG v Ajax.
Group G: Schalke 04 v Chelsea, Sporting v Man.

Group H: BATE v FC Porto, Shakhtar Donetsk v Athletic Bilbao.
SKY BET LEAGUE
League 1: Milton Keynes Dons v Rochdale.

JOHNSTONE'S PAINT TROPHY
Northern Section Quarter-Final: Oldham v Preston.
VANARAMA CONFERENCE

Premier: Braintree Town v Welling, Bristol Rovers v Barnet, Dartford v Chester, Dover v Nuneaton, Grimsby v Woking, Kidderminster v Wrexham, Macclesfield v Torquay, Southport v Aldershot.
South: Basingstoke v Bromley, Bath City v Hemel Hempstead, Ebbsfleet United v

Gosport Borough.

EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE

Premier Division: Chesham v Hereford, Paulton v Cambridge City, Slough v Chippenham, Weymouth v Poole Town.
South & West Division: Wantage Town v Cinderford Town, Wimborne Town v Fleet Town.

HAMPSHIRE SENIOR CUP

Hordean v Eastleigh.
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
Premier Division: Fareham Town v Verwood Town.

SWL Cup: AFC Portchester v Andover New Street, Andover Town v Bemerton Heath Harlequins, Petersfield Town v Cowes Sports, Ringwood Town v Alesford Town, United Services Portsmouth v Winchester City.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE
Group A: Atletico Madrid v Olympiacos, Malmo FF v Juventus.

Group B: Basle v Real Madrid, Ludogorets v Liverpool.
Group C: Bayer Leverkusen v Monaco, Zenit St Petersburg v Benfica.

Group D: Anderlecht v Galatasaray, Arsenal v Borussia Dortmund.
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
Premier Division: Fawley v Newport (IoW).
SWL Cup: Whitchurch United v Blackfield & Langley.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27

UEFA EUROPA LEAGUE

Group A: FC Zurich v Apollon Limassol, Villarreal v Borussia M'gladbach.
Group B: HJK Helsinki v FC Copenhagen, Torino v Club Brugge.
Group C: Asteras Tripoli v Besiktas, Tottenham Hotspur v Partizan Belgrade.
Group D: Celtic v SV Red Bull Salzburg, FC Astra Giurgiu v Dinamo Zagreb.

Group E: Dinamo Moscow v Panathinaikos, Estoril v PSV.
Group F: Inter Milan v Dnipro, St Etienne v FK Karabakh.

Group G: Feyenoord v Sevilla, Rijeka v Standard Liege.
Group H: Krasnodar v Lille, Wolfsburg v Everton.

Group I: Slovan Bratislava v Young Boys, Sparta Prague v Napoli.
Group J: AaB v Steaua Bucuresti, Dynamo Kiev v Rio Ave.

Group K: Dinamo Minsk v PAOK Salonika, Gillingham v Fiorentina.
Group L: Lokeren v Legia Warsaw, Trabzonspor v FC Metallist Kharkiv.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28

SKY BET LEAGUE
League 1: Peterborough v Bristol City, Sheffield Utd v Notts County.
League 2: Accrington Stanley v Exeter.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29

BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE
Burnley v Aston Villa, Liverpool v Stoke, Man Utd v Hull, QPR v Leicester, Sunderland v Chelsea, Swansea v Crystal Palace, West Brom v Arsenal, West Ham v

Newcastle.

SKY BET LEAGUE

Championship: Birmingham v Nottm Forest, Bolton v Huddersfield, Bournemouth v Millwall, Brentford v Wolverhampton, Brighton v Fulham, Charlton v Ipswich, Leeds v Derby, Middlesbrough v Blackburn, Norwich v Reading, Rotherham v Blackpool, Sheffield Wed v Wigan, Watford v Cardiff.

League 1: Barnsley v Scunthorpe, Bradford v Leyton Orient, Coventry v Walsall, Crawley Town v Chesterfield, Crewe v Doncaster, Gillingham v Port Vale, Milton Keynes Dons v Colchester, Rochdale v Oldham, Swindon v Fleetwood Town, Yeovil v Preston.

League 2: Wembleton v Cambridge Utd, Bury v Dag & Red, Carlisle v Newport County, Cheltenham v Oxford Utd, Hartlepool v Wycombe, Luton v Mansfield, Plymouth v York, Shrewsbury v Burton Albion, Southend v Northampton, Stevenage v Morecambe, Tranmere v Portsmouth.

VANARAMA CONFERENCE
Premier: AFC Telford v Grimsby, Altrincham v Kidderminster, Barnet v Macclesfield, Bristol Rovers v Welling, FC Halifax v Alfreton Town, Forest Green v Darford, Gateshead v Dover, Lincoln City v Southport, Nuneaton v Chester, Torquay v Eastleigh, Woking v Braintree Town, Wrexham v Aldershot.

THE FA TROPHY
Third Round - Qualifying (selected ties): Basingstoke v Whitehawk, Sholing v

Farnborough, Havant & W v East Thurrock, Arlesley, Peacehaven & Telcombe v Gosport Borough, Staines Town v Poole Town, Weymouth/Burnham v Cray Wanderers, Wimborne Town v AFC Hornchurch.

EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE
Premier Division: Chesham v Dunstable, Cirencester v Biggleswade Town, Corby v Bideford, Histon v Paulton, Hitchin v Frome Town, Hungerford Town v Arlesley.

South & West Division: Bashley v Swindon Supermarine, Bishop Cleeve v Taunton Town, Cinderford v Fleet Town, Evesham United v Shortwood United, Mangotsfield v Larkhall Athletic, Stratford v Clevedon Town, Wantage Town v Bridgwater Town, Yate Town v Tiverton Town.

SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
Premier Division: Bemerton Heath Harlequins v Alesford Town, Blackfield & Langley v Brockenhurst, Bournemouth v Andover Town, Christchurch v AFC Portchester, Folland Sports v Fareham Town, Hamworthy United v Totton & Eling, Petersfield Town v Lymington Town, Verwood Town v Fawley, Whitchurch United v Moneyfields, Winchester City v Hordean.

SWL Cup: Newport (IoW) v Amesbury Town.
Division One: Andover New Street v Ringwood Town, Downton v Romsey Town, East Cowes Victoria v New Milton Town, Pewsey Vale v Hythe & Dibden, Tadley Calveia v Team Solent, United Services Portsmouth v Laverstock & Ford, Fleet Spurs v Cowes Sports.

Non-league Football



Bennett: Church will keep punching above our weight...

NEW SIGNING: Craig Vigar has joined Carl Bennett at Whitchurch.



WHITCHURCH manager Carl Bennett insists that his high-flying Jam Boys are "happily punching above their weight" in the Sydenhams Premier Division this season.

The former Romsey boss has, unexpectedly to many, taken Whitchurch to the summit of the Wessex with the other tops sides in hot pursuit.

The leaders have been beaten just three times this term, with their only defeats coming against Winchester City, AFC Portchester and a 3-0 reverse against Brockenhurst last Saturday.

Bennett admits that a blip in form is expected of every club and their current run suggests that this could well be theirs.

But the Longmeadow boss is still happy with their lofty position.

"In all honesty, we're as surprised as anyone about our position," he

said. "But this is no fluke, we've worked hard to be here.

"I think we're going through, and I've said this to the players, that this could be our rocky patch.

"Every club will have one and this could well be ours.

"It is my concern that we think we've achieved something but we've not earned anything yet.

"I'm keeping my feet flat on the ground. I'm not going to go preaching to others about our position.

"Obviously, I'd love to win the league but there's a long way to go.

"When I first arrived in the summer our aspirations have gone from survival in the Premier Division - that has already been achieved, unless things go really wrong - to top ten or even top four.

"It is what it is at the moment, we just need to keep doing what we do well."

Bennett recruited striker Craig

Vigar this week, giving his side a different option up top.

"He's been with us all season, but because of a knee injury he's been helping out off the field," Bennett said. "He's a great plan b that we've been lacking.

"Craig gives a different dimension. We can use him in a different approach."

Whitchurch are looking to bolster their numbers further, with Bennett on the lookout for potential talent across the pitch.

"If a good quality player becomes available, we'll be looking to be bring him in," he said. "There's a couple of players I'm looking at at the moment. "We've always got to be looking to improve. We want to up our game, we've got 16/18 players performing but, like anyone, we look to improve."

The boss is aware that the teams in the chasing pack behind could catch

them today with Moneyfields just a point behind with a game in hand and Petersfield Town just two points off the Jam Boys with a game in hand.

But it isn't a concern in his mind. "We're happily punching above our weight," he said. "We know we're not expected to be there.

"Our worst performances have come against Winchester and Brockenhurst this season.

"I would say that, when I look back on this season whatever's happened, it will be first game against Fareham that made us.

"Rudy Plummer, who's now with me, had four opportunities.

"He scored one and missed three and then got sent-off. In my opinion, that has made our season.

"If he hadn't got sent-off it could have been so different. We wouldn't have had that winning start to build on."

Non-league News

Killick has Boro as his inspiration

POOLE Town manager Tom Killick is looking to Gosport Borough for FA Trophy inspiration.

Killick was among the crowd at Wembley in March to see Alex Pike's men when they lost 4-0 in the final to Cambridge United in last season's Trophy final.

The Dolphins, who have reached the first round just once in their past 26 attempts, beat Southern League Premier Division rivals Biggleswade 2-1.

They were then handed a third qualifying round tie at Staines Town.

Killick, pictured below,



guided the Dorset outfit to the semi-finals of the FA Vase in 2011 and has led them to the top of the Southern League ranks this season. And he is looking for that bit of Gosport luck.

"I watched the finals of the Trophy and Vase last season and they were chalk and cheese," he told the *Pink's* sister paper the *Bournemouth Echo*.

"Although Gosport were soundly beaten, it was a massive occasion.

"I know it is far-fetched to think about getting to the final but, with a bit of luck, you can certainly reach the latter stages. That is what we want to try to do.

"We were upset at our relatively early exit from FA Cup this season and cup runs are vital in every sense. As we didn't make much money in the FA Cup, we want to try to make some in the FA Trophy."

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Non-league Football

Non-league News

No pressure on Town for Trophy clash, says Cuss

MANAGER Steve Cuss believes Wimborne Town can play with "real freedom" when they host higher-division AFC Hornchurch in the FA Trophy later this month.

Wimborne have been handed a third qualifying round clash with the Urchins, who are currently bottom of the Isthmian Premier having won just four of their 19 league games.

Cuss, pictured below, who master-minded a 2-1 victory over Northwood on Saturday, will take his Southern South & West side into uncharted territory in the Trophy on Saturday, November 29.

And the Cuthbury boss talked up his team's prospects of further progression.

He told the *Daily Echo*: "I was looking for a home tie so I'm pleased with the draw. It's against higher-league opposition – which we would probably have expected at this stage of the competition – but it's one of those games that we can go into with no pressure on us."

"If you delve into their current form then you will see that they are on a very good run at the moment."

"They got off to a pretty awful start in the league but have had just two defeats in their past ten games."

"Equally, we are in the middle of a very good patch so I think it's a great tie and it's one that a lot of people will look forward to seeing."

"I think they are favourites given that they play a higher standard of football but it's a game in which we can play with real freedom and enjoy it, and see if we can cause another upset."

Meanwhile, Poole Town have also been given a tie against a struggling team in a higher division, with Staines Town providing the opposition.

Dolphins will travel to Wheatheaf Park to face the Conference South basement battlers, who they took to an FA Cup replay last season.

Having drawn 0-0 away to Swans in a fourth qualifying round clash, Poole lost the replay 1-0 at Tatnam.

Tom Killick's men are in action tonight when they travel to the Testwood Stadium to take on AFC Totton in the Southern League Cup second round.

In the second round of the Russell Cotes Cup, in-form Lymington Town entertain Bemerton Heath Harlequins, New Milton Town host Cowes Sports and Ringwood Town face visitors Fleet Town.



Whisken: We can follow Gosport's lead

FORMER AFC Totton defender and now Poole Town captain Jamie Whisken insists an FA Trophy run is a high priority for the Southern Premier Division high fliers.

A Kelvin Bossman header from a Greg Morgan cross had put hosts Biggleswade 1-0 ahead at the break and seemingly on course for the third qualifying round last Saturday.

But two goals in quick succession from Luke Burbidge and Jack Maloney just before the hour mark secured Dolphins a berth in the next round.

Whisken, pictured right, who moved from the Testwood Stadium last summer, said: "Having gone out of the FA Cup so close to the first round proper it would be nice to have a run in the Trophy and earn the club a bit of money."

"You are never going to get to the FA Cup final but you have always got a chance in the Trophy. It's more of a reality than a dream."

"Part of the manager's team talk was what happened with Gosport last season and how there was no reason why it couldn't happen with us."

"You just never know. It would be

lovely to play at Wembley and that's every kid's dream."

Centre-half Whisken admitted that Poole had taken a while to hit their stride at the Carlsberg Stadium but said that half-time changes by boss Tom Killick had proved the catalyst for their improvement.

"It was our first fixture in two weeks so it was always going to be hard to get straight up to speed and we didn't start too well," said Whisken.

"I don't think we necessarily felt it physically but it was clear to see we were a little bit off the pace."

"The manager made a couple of positive changes at half-time and, in the second half, we were back to our normal selves. We were more of an attacking threat and showed good character."

"It was the perfect situation to come out in the second half and get straight back into things. From then on, they had a few dangerous set-pieces but I think we saw the game out quite well."

"We have a never-say-die attitude which has won us a lot of games this season and long may that continue. If we keep it up, we will be at the top of the league at the end of the season."



BECK WANTS CASTLE TO SHOW 'EL WINCHICO' FIRE IN LEAGUE

WINCHESTER Castle co-boss Stewart Beck was gutted not to come away with anything from their derby match against city neighbours Winchester City this week in the North Hants Senior Cup.

The clash – dubbed locally as 'El Winchico', in reference to Spain's El Clasico between Barcelona and Real Madrid – pitted Hampshire Premier League Castle against Sydenhams Premier City, a gap of three divisions between the sides, **writes PETER HOWARD.**

It ended 4-3, but Castle were far from overawed and raced into a 2-0 lead at the Denplan City Ground. Geoff Dunn's header got City back in the game and Dunn then struck again from the penalty spot to make it 2-2.

In the second half Liam Robinson struck the post for City before Castle went back into the lead from the penalty spot.

Dunn equalised again for City and, with just minutes remaining, Robinson belted in a winner.

Beck knew his side were underdogs but was gutted to lose to a late goal.

"It was a good game to watch for the neutral," he said. "I'm just completely gutted we lost."

"We went 2-0 and started the game really well."

"We were very comfortable until we made a defensive error and allowed

them back into the game."

"It didn't help losing Tom Johnson to injury just before half time."

"It was a poor refereeing decision to give a handball inside the box for Geoff Dunn's penalty."

"In the second half we came back out fighting, showing great character and went 3-2 when we won a penalty."

"That was coolly taken by Callum Hollaway."

"City stepped up a gear and their pressure paid off when Dunn scored his hat-trick."

"Their tails were up and with 30 seconds to go, they scored from outside the box."

"It was a physical and fiery game but feel we should of got something out of it."

"We can take a lot of positives from that."

"If we can play like that every week then we should start climbing the league table."

SAFETY

FIRST: Hedge End Rangers' Mike Harridim, left, heads the ball way from Bush Hill's Liam Kietes. The Bushmen went on to win last weekend's Hampshire Premier League Senior Division match 6-0 – their best result of the campaign so far. Order no: 21620910



Non-league Football

NEW FOREST PAIR ON CUP FINAL COLLISION COURSE

THE Sdfa Junior A Cup final could be an all New Forest affair with East Boldre and Woodlands both reaching the semi-finals in their respective halves of the draw.

Boldre won 3-1 at AFC Testwood in the quarter-finals with Matt Alford (2) and Matt Harrington on target. Connor Young replied.

Woodlands made it to the last four the hard way, defeating Warsash Wasps 5-3 on penalties after drawing 2-2 after extra time. Jamie Mason and Sam Wallace were on target for Woodlands while Jordan Chalk and Alan Hicks replied.

Athletico Romsey and Park Sports and Shamblehurst and Capital will try again after their quarter-finals were postponed last weekend.

In Drew Smith Southampton Football League action, Junior 1 pair Durlley Reserves and Compton Reserves served up a nine-goal thriller with four goals from the latter's Jamie Ricketts going a long way to earning the 5-4 verdict. Ollie Potter also netted for Compton while Ash Dalomore's hat-trick and Mike Cooper's strike were in vain for Durlley.

Darren Shelley hit a hat-trick as New Forest Reserves defeated Junior 3 rivals London Airways 7-3. Gary Stoner (2), Mike Boswell and Ross Jones also netted for the winners with Fernando Rinaldi (2) and Christie Cerney replying.

Real FC Reserves thrashed AFC Nemesis 12-1 with Alex Forrester hitting a nap hand with Tunde Akintolu and Eric Makate weighing in with trebles in the Junior 4 clash. Craig King completed the tally while Ben Hatcher netted a consolation for AFC Nemesis.

Langley Manor Vets (Nick Alp 2, Wayne Allen, Brian Smith) look well on track to win the B division after a 4-0 win at Priory Rovers.

The top pair from the Southampton Veterans Over 40 Division clashed at QE2 last Saturday with reigning champions Redlynch & Woodfalls taking the lead before being pegged back by Paul Summers' penalty for Hythe & Dibden.

Redlynch, though, remained on



REDLYNCH & WOODFALLS UNITED 0-40: Back row (from left): Jason Brice, Shaun Hartley, Rich Musselwhite, Graeme Mundy (manager), Mark Savage, Andy Goodridge, Matt Andrew, Chris Nash. Front: Carlo Downie, Andrew Holstead, Martin Tutton, Wayne Cooper, Paul Spiller, Bill Yardley, Michael Ball.



HYTHE & DIBDEN VETS 0-40: Back row (from left): Nathan Oakley, Martin Wells, Colin Bigland, Mark Blondel, Rob Hossey, Kevin Morrow, Russell Oakley, Gareth Mullins, Paul Summers. Front: Danny Hossey, Steve Wells, Steve Rutherford, Simon Hartley, Mark Hughes, Niall Gibb, Trevor Liburd, Vinnie Jones.

track to retain the title, coming on strong to complete a 5-1 win with goals from Mark Savage (2), Andy Goodridge (2) and Mike Ball.

Two late goals saved holders Hythe Aztecs crashing out of the Soton Divisional FA Veterans Cup after BTC Soton A had taken a shock lead

through Joe Fielder. A penalty equaliser by Stacey Green and injury time winner from Danny Gibb saw them through.

Southbrook stage a stirring Trophy comeback

AFC Southbrook staged an incredible comeback from 4-3 down at half time to win 8-4 against Unity in the Charlie Godden Trophy second round.

The City of Southampton Sunday League Junior Division 4 outfit were trailing to Unity at the break after David Panigani struck a first half hat-trick and Sam Beaton netted another.

But Southbrook came out fighting in the second half, Ryan Longhurst, Dion Bone, John Durman all grabbing two goals each. James Mann and Mark Christopher netted further

goals to round off the scoring.

Elsewhere in the Charlie Godden, Testwood Tornados ripped through Southampton Seahawks 6-1. Marek Szalajko netted a hat-trick while Reece Stafford bagged himself a brace and Reece Jerim a single.

James Nash scored a freaky consolation goal from a free kick on the half way line.

Nick White scored a first half hat-trick to send JSC through to the next round in narrow 3-2 victory over Portsmouth United.

Liam Faulds' double replied for Portwood.

Itchen Saints went through to the third round of the Hampshire FA Junior A Cup after thrashing Hi Speed 9-5 in a second-round tie.

Rich Warner bagged a hat-trick, Tony Sullivan and AJ Cashmore netted two each while Danny Phillips and Jamie Martin scored one apiece.

Lee James struck a hat-trick as Holbury United beat Itchen Albion 5-1 in the Southampton FA Junior B Cup third round.

Keith Hartman netted a brace for the mid-table Junior 4 outfit. Ben Cox replied for the Junior 5 side.

Bitterne Ducks came back from 2-1 down at the break to win 4-3 in their second-round tie against Fawley RBL.

The Junior 5 side secured the win with goals from Chris Pye, Wayne O'Dell, Tim Broomfield and Zaine Rashid. Rob Doherty, James Willis and Phillip Bryan were on target for Fawley.

In the other second-round game, Marchwood Rangers scraped past Durlley with a 3-2 win. Matt Petty, Jay Petty and James Knight all found the net for the Junior 4 table toppers. Ash Dallimore and Mike Cooper replied.

DREW SMITH SOUTHAMPTON LEAGUE

Premier Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
BTC Southampton	7	6	1	0	28	9	19
Comrades	6	4	0	2	30	15	12
Real FC	5	4	0	1	10	9	12
Burrige AFC	6	3	1	2	9	7	10
Nursling	6	3	1	2	9	9	10
Southampton Uni	4	2	0	2	6	1	6
Durley	7	1	2	4	7	20	5
Hedge End Town	6	1	4	8	16	4	4
Solent Saints	3	0	2	1	3	4	2
Bishopstoke	6	0	0	6	8	28	0

Senior 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AFC Gulf Western	7	5	1	1	16	6	16
Chamberlayne Ath	5	5	0	0	23	3	15
Bishops Waltham	1	3	1	0	11	5	10
Compton	7	2	2	3	14	14	8
Langley Manor	6	2	0	4	7	12	6
Comrades Res	7	2	0	5	8	21	6
Braishfield	4	1	2	1	6	5	5
BTC Soton Res	6	0	0	6	3	22	0

Junior 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Warsash Wasps	6	5	0	1	30	5	15
Montefiore Halls	7	5	0	2	27	11	15
East Boldre	5	5	0	0	17	2	15
AFC Botley	7	4	1	2	26	10	13
Park Sports	5	3	1	1	10	5	10
Compton Res	8	3	0	5	17	21	9
Lowford FC	7	3	0	4	10	25	9
Appelwood Joinery	4	2	0	2	14	9	6
Burrige AFC Res	8	1	0	7	13	32	3
Durley Res	7	0	0	7	8	52	0

Junior 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FC Wellington	7	6	0	1	16	8	18
Woodlands	7	5	0	2	22	14	15
EPFC	6	4	1	1	20	10	13
Capital	6	3	0	3	11	7	9
Sporting Wessex	7	3	0	4	20	17	9
Botley Village	6	3	0	3	16	19	9
Priory Rovers	8	2	0	6	15	24	6
Humble Utd	6	0	4	8	20	6	4
New Forest FC	7	1	1	5	11	20	4

Junior 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
New Forest Res	7	6	0	1	29	19	18
Athletico Romsey	7	5	1	1	25	11	16
London Airways	9	4	2	3	27	21	14
Shamblehurst	5	3	0	2	21	11	9
AFC Phoenix XI	6	2	1	3	18	19	7
Imms	6	2	3	1	9	13	7
AFC Testwood	6	1	2	3	11	15	5
Wellow	5	1	1	3	5	15	4
BTC A	7	1	0	6	9	26	3

Junior 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Thompson FC	7	5	1	1	25	11	16
Park Sports Res	7	4	1	2	17	16	13
FC White Horse	5	4	0	1	25	6	12
Weston City	5	3	1	1	16	7	10
Upham Res	5	3	0	2	12	10	9
Real FC Res	5	2	1	2	19	9	7
Hythe Aztecs	6	2	0	4	15	25	6
AFC Station	4	0	3	0	9	10	3
AFC Nemesis	6	1	0	5	16	36	3
Mitre	4	0	0	4	6	30	0

Junior 5

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AFC Hittingbury	5	5	0	0	22	11	15
West End Rovers	7	4	0	3	21	20	12
Athletico Romsey	7	4	0	3	16	18	12
Shield FC	4	3	0	1	12	7	9
Knightwood Utd	5	3	0	2	13	11	9
Waltham Wolves	6	2	0	4	16	18	6
Warsash Wasp	4	2	0	2	8	10	6
Braishfield Res	5	1	0	4	9	15	3
Humble Utd Res	7	1	0	6	12	19	3

Veterans A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Colden Common	5	5	0	0	26	6	15
Sporting BTC	6	5	0	1	25	6	15
Hythe Aztecs	5	4	0	1	17	4	12
Locks Heath	5	2	1	2	14	17	7
Regents Park	5	1	3	1	3	10	4
BTC Soton A	5	1	0	4	12	18	3
AFC Stoneham	5	1	0	4	4	20	3
Baddesley Park	4	0	0	4	7	32	0

Veterans B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Langley Manor	9	6	2	1	29	14	20
BTC Soton Vets B	5	4	1	0	16	10	13
Royal Mail Vets	7	2	2	3	8	21	8
Priory Rovers	6	2	1	3	14	17	7
Michelmersham & T	4	2	0	2	12	11	6
Redbridge OB	5	1	0	4	12	13	3
Compton Vet	6	1	0	5	11	16	3

Veterans Over 40s

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Redlynch Utd	8	8	0	0	67	8	24
Humble Club Vets	8	6	0	2	26	14	18
Hythe & Dibden	6	5	0	1	22	9	15
Sporting BTC	7	5	0	2	15	11	15
Winchester OB	10	4	0	6	28	24	12
Langley Manor	9	2	3	4	9	25	9
BTC Soton	4	2	0	2	5	10	6
Wildemans	8	1	2	5	15	20	5
Old Tauntonians	8	1	2	5	13	26	5
Humble Plumb	8	0	1	7	6	59	1

● Tables do not include this weekend's games.

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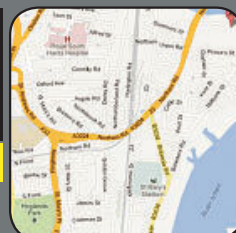
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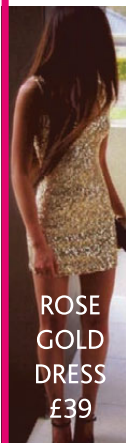
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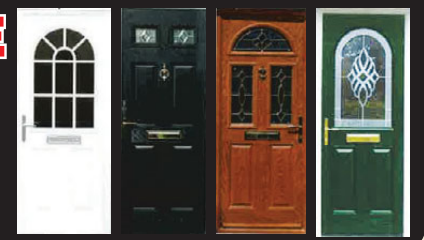
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Youth Football

Hampshire scare cup holders

THE Hampshire Sixth Form Colleges representative side bowed out of the English Schools FA Under-18 County Cup after a 4-3 defeat by Kent, the current holders, at Thamesmead Town's ground.

Under the new management of Barton Peveril's Luke Hampton, who previously ran successful Sussex county sides, and Steve Perkins, Hampshire bossed the early stages.

After hitting the woodwork twice, Hampshire went ahead midway through the first half with a superb 20-yard curling finish from Sparsholt's Charlie Gunson.

Kent quickly levelled though Jack Smith after Tom Crozier (Peter Symonds) had made a point-blank save.

Hants continued to dominate the half but went in at half-time 2-1 down after another neat counter attack led to Charlie Simpson finishing from close range following some neat wide play and a good cross.

Hampshire came out after the break and continued to dominate play, and managed to level 2-2 after man-of-the-match Ollie Bailey battled to win the ball off a Kent defender, and cut it back to Queen Mary's hitman Adam Alliston, who side-footed home from the edge of the box.

Hampshire continued to dominate and looked like the team who would go on and win the game, and had a great shout for a penalty turned down when Ollie Bailey was clean through and appeared to be fouled from behind by the Kent centre half.

Kent rallied and managed to go in front for the first time when they capitalised on a sliced goal-keeping clearance to go 3-2 ahead.

A soft penalty enabled Kent to stretch their lead to 4-2, but two minutes from time Bailey rounded the keeper to make it 4-3. Despite late pressure Hampshire could not force the game into extra time.

"We were very impressed with the Hampshire team and bitterly disappointed to lose the game, as especially we went to the home ground of the national champions and dominated for long periods," Hampton said.

"There were lots of positives to take out and moving forward to the Somerset game in the SW Counties League next month.

"All the players were outstanding, but the man-of-the-match performance came from Ollie Bailey for his movement, work ethic and constant goal threat."

Hants Line-up: Crozier (Symonds); Wright (Sparsholt), Burt (Sparsholt), Golding (St Vincents), Clarke (Itchen); Docherty (Farnborough), Everett (Portsmouth College), Gunson (Sparsholt); Badamosa (Sparsholt), Alliston (QMC) Bailey (Sparsholt). Subs: Gurman (Barton Peveril), Thomas (Farnborough), Hoey (Brockenhurst).

TITLE SHOWDOWN



OFF THE MARK: Itchen's Jack Burrows, left, celebrates his first goal against Queen Mary's. Daily Echo pictures by Stuart Martin Order no: 21642690

Top two hit goals trail ahead of clash

ITCHEN'S six-year Hampshire Sixth Form College League domination comes under the closest scrutiny next Wednesday (2pm) when the champions visit goal happy Brockenhurst in a match certain to have a significant bearing on the title.

The pair share the 19-point top spot - Brock scoring 61 goals in their six games, this week's 17-0 drubbing of St Vincent being their third double-figure score so far, **writes MIKE VIMPANY.**

Itchen didn't take too long in hitting the goal trail themselves - Jake Hoole scoring inside the first minute against visiting Queen Mary's at Middle Road.

Come the half-hour mark, Itchen were 4-0, with Jack Burrows bagging a quick-fire hat-trick.

Alas, that was as good as it got for Hoole, who limped off soon after and could be a doubt for the midweek showdown in the New Forest.

Itchen had been threatening goals all season and a fifth followed soon after half-time from Keenan New.

The game up, QMC closed the door for a long while, but conceded a sixth before the end - Burrows getting his fourth of the match.

Barton Peveril, one of the other colleges expected to feature strongly in the title race this season, fell behind to a Kieron Stevens goal for Andover.

But in tough, demanding conditions BP turned things around to win 2-1.

With 20 minutes left, Matt Bainbridge equalised with a neat turn and finish and, ten minutes from the end, Jack Pearson smashed home a 20-yard free kick to give Barton Peveril the win points.

South Downs, who ended

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brockenhurst	7	6	1	0	61	4	19
Itchen	7	6	1	0	22	6	19
South Downs	8	6	1	1	23	12	19
Andover	8	6	0	2	29	6	18
Farnborough	8	4	2	2	23	18	14
Barton Peveril	5	4	0	1	18	6	12

Andover's six-match win run last week, trimmed Havant 4-0.

The Poole Grammar-Richard Taunton game produced eight goals and twice as many missed chances before the joust ended all square, 4-4.

Watching the action unfold was Tim Hall, a very healthy 70-year old, who rode his bike to Poole Grammar, where he was head of PE for a staggering 38 years until his retirement, and is still regarded as a legend at the school.

An afternoon on the touchline with Tim is always good value, trips down Memory Lane abound and sporting stories of yesteryear relived.

Bristolian Hall saw a Luke Berg brace give RTC a two-goal start, but Poole bounce back to level 2-2 by half-time through Alex Heath and Alex Martin who, as one of Dorset's most promising young athletes, can run like the wind.

Poole looked home and dry when Martin and an own goal - created by Heath - turned the game on its head and gave PGS a 4-2 lead.

But Tauntons rallied with Callum Fitzhousel making it 4-3 and then Shay Hollingford equalising.

Alton and Peter Symonds trumped that 4-all scoreline by producing a nine-goal thriller.

Richard Dane notched a hat-trick for Alton (Ed Duffy), but a Fin Hampton brace, alongside Charlie Waite, man-of-the-match Theo Servini and an own goal gave PSC a 5-4 victory.

Farnborough trimmed Sparsholt 3-1, with the influential Alex



HIGH FLIER: Itchen's Charlie Wagstaff hurdles the challenge of a Queen Mary's opponent. Order no: 21642698



HEADING FOR A FALL: Itchen's Branden Douglas, left. Order no: 21642715

Merrifield opening the scoring by heading home a James Thomas free kick. Sparsholt equalised ten minutes later, but Cameron Hogg restored the Boro' when he won the ball off the defence high up the pitch, rounded the keeper and finished from a tight angle.

Sam Pederson scored the third for Farnborough in the second half after Merrifield put the ball in

behind the Sparsholt defence and the striker lobbed the on rushing keeper.

"Sparsholt had more possession but we were dangerous on the counter attack," said Farnborough coach Alan Reed.

Chichester trounced Totton 6-0, while Bournemouth School celebrated a long overdue win, beating neighbours Bournemouth & Poole 2-0 through Brandon Elliott and Jishoden Padiachy.

Second XI League champions Peter Symonds thrashed Alton 14-0 with Andrew Sanders (4), Mike Olaore (3), Jamie Howells (3), Kane Tiltman, Charlie Bragg (2), and Gabe Shea on target.

South Downs put 12 goals past Havant without reply, while Itchen made it eight wins in a row with a 2-0 victory against QMC.

Fixtures

MONDAY
ESFA College Trophy: Barton Peveril v Sparsholt (Chestnut Avenue).

WEDNESDAY
Colleges League: Alton v Poole Grammar, Bournemouth v Peter Symonds, Brockenhurst v Itchen, Havant v Barton Peveril, Portsmouth v Bournemouth & Poole, Richard Taunton v Totton, Queen Mary's v Sparsholt, South Downs v Chichester, St Vincent v Andover.

Cherries/Pompey Spotlight

CHERRIES 2014/15

AUGUST

9: Huddersfield Town (A) W 4-0
Pugh, Wilson 2, Kermorgant
12 Exeter (A) League Cup W 2-0
OG, Gosling
16: Brentford (H) W 1-0
Stanislas
19: Nottm Forest (H) L 1-2
Wilson
23: Blackburn Rovers (A) L 2-3
Pitman, Cook
26: Northampton (H) Lge Cup W 3-0
Gosling, Pitman, Wilson
30: Norwich City (A) D 1-1
Wilson

SEPTEMBER

13: Rotherham (H) D 1-1
Cook
16: Leeds Utd (H) L 1-3
Surman
20: Watford (A) D 1-1
Arter
27: Wigan Athletic (H) W 2-0
Kermorgant, Francis
30: Derby County (A) L 0-2

OCTOBER

4: Bolton Wanderers (A) W 2-1
Wilson (2)
18: Charlton Athletic H W 1-0
Wilson
21: Reading H W 3-0
Wilson, Pitman 2
25: Birmingham City A 8-0
Pitman, Wilson, Ritchie, Pugh 3, Rantie 2
28: West Brom (H) League Cup W 2-1
O'Kane, Wilson

NOVEMBER

1: Brighton W 3-2
Greer og, Pugh, Kermorgant,
4: Sheffield Wed W 2-0
Surman, Fraser
8: Middlesbrough A D 0-0
22: Ipswich Town H
29: Millwall H

DECEMBER

6: Wolves A
13: Cardiff City H
20: Blackpool A
26: Fulham H
28: Millwall A

JANUARY

10: Norwich City H
17: Rotherham United A
24: Leeds United A
31: Watford H

FEBRUARY

7: Wigan Athletic A
10: Derby County (7.45pm) H
14: Huddersfield H
21: Brentford A
25: Nottingham Forest (7.45pm) A
28: Blackburn Rovers H

MARCH

3: Wolves (7.45pm) H
7: Fulham A
14: Blackpool H
17: Cardiff City (7.45pm) A
21: Middlesbrough (3pm) H

APRIL

4: Ipswich Town A
6: Birmingham City H
11: Brighton A
14: Reading (8pm) A
18: Sheffield Wednesday H
25: Bolton Wanderers H

MAY

2: Charlton Athletic A



OPENER: Yann Kermorgant, left.

HOWE'S MEN FAIL TO BUILD ON KERMORGANT STRIKE

DARYL Murphy's second-half header earned Ipswich a 2-2 draw with high-flying Bournemouth at Dean Court.

The Irishman leaped highest to head home a Paul Anderson delivery after Matt Ritchie had previously regained the home side's advantage.

Bournemouth had already been pegged back once before after Yann Kermorgant saw his spectacular opener cancelled out by Teddy Bishop.

It took less than two minutes for Eddie Howe's side to take grab the lead at Dean Court as Kermorgant gave the hosts the advantage in style.

The former Charlton striker met a Simon Francis cross perfectly and made no mistake as he acrobatically smashed the ball past Bartosz Bialkowski from outside the box.

Ritchie had almost given the Cherries the lead moments earlier as he crashed an effort onto the

Tractor Boys' crossbar with a left-footed effort.

Bournemouth had the chance to double their lead with just nine minutes gone as Marc Pugh went one-on-one with Bialkowski in the Ipswich goal.

But Town's stopper, dubbed Bart by the Ipswich players, closed the gap well to save the shot before getting up again to block Ritchie's second bite of the cherry.

It took 20 minutes for Mick McCarthy's side to get involved in the game and they fired a warning shot via Murphy.

Murphy leapt highest from a Town corner to power a header past Artur Boruc, and the Southampton loanee was thankful to see it crash off the bar and away to safety.

The second-half at Dean Court started as frenetically as the first, only this time it was Ipswich that were fastest out the traps.

The hugely impressive Tyrone Mings fed substitute Bishop who slotted the ball into the bottom right-hand corner of Boruc's goal to equalise.

Bournemouth however were in no mood to drop their first home points in five games and responded almost instantly.

The impressive Ritchie again involved as he tapped home a Callum Wilson cross after the former Coventry striker had taunted the Ipswich backline with his pace.

But Ipswich were showing an air of confidence that not many sides' have possessed at Dean Court this season.

And the Tractor boys were handed a free kick just outside the box when left-back Mings was wrestled to the floor by Francis.

Murphy yet again beat every Bournemouth defender to the delivery and headed the ball powerfully past Boruc.

Injury to substitute Tokelo Rantie meant that there was 12 minutes of added time to be played at Dean Court.

The hosts pushed for the winner and midfielder Harry Artur had the chance to snatch all three points with minutes left be fired tamely at Bialkowski.

POMPEY 2014/15

AUGUST

9 Exeter City (A) D 1-1
Wallace
12 Peterborough (H) Lge Cup W 1-0
Storey
16 Cambridge United (H) W 2-1
Taylor, OG
19 Northampton Town (H) W 2-0
Wallace, Westcarr
23 Oxford United (A) W 1-0
Westcarr
27 Stoke City (A) League Cup L 0-3
30 Newport County (H) L 0-1

SEPTEMBER

6 Burton Albion (A) L 0-2
13 Southend United (A) L 0-2
16 Dagenham & Red (H) W 3-0
Dunne, Wallace, Barcham
20 Wycombe Wanderers (H) D 1-1
Ertl
27 Hartlepool United (A) D 0-0

OCTOBER

4 York City (A) D 0-0
7 Northampton (H) L 2-1
Taylor
11 Mansfield Town H D 1-1
Robinson
18 Bury A L 3-0
21 Stevenage H W 3-2
Wallace, Storey, Devera
25 Shrewsbury Town A L 2-1
Wallace

NOVEMBER

1 Carlisle United W 3-0
Westcarr, Storey, Hollands
8 FA Cup 1st rd: Aldershot (H) D 2-2
Wallace, Hollands
15 Plymouth Argyle A L 3-0
19 FA Cup R1 replay: Aldershot A L 1-0
22 Morecambe H
29 Tranmere Rovers A

DECEMBER

6 FA Cup 2nd rd
13 Accrington Stanley H
20 Cheltenham Town A
26 AFC Wimbledon H
28 Luton Town A

JANUARY

3 Tranmere Rovers H
10 Newport County A
17 Burton Albion H
24 Southend United H
31 Wycombe Wanderers A

FEBRUARY

7 Hartlepool United H
10 Dagenham & R (7.45pm) A
14 Exeter City H
21 Cambridge United A
28 Oxford United H

MARCH

3 Northampton (7.45pm) A
7 Accrington Stanley A
14 Luton Town H
17 Cheltenham Town (7.45pm) H
21 AFC Wimbledon A
28 Shrewsbury Town H

APRIL

4 Carlisle United A
6 Plymouth Argyle H
11 Morecambe A
14 Stevenage (7.45pm) A
18 Bury H
25 Mansfield Town A

MAY

2 York City H

CHERRIES BOSS HAILS BORUC IMPACT - SEE PAGE 2

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SENIOR WINNER: Matt Macdonald.

MATT'S RIGHT AS RAIN AT FLEMING PARK

TOTTON'S Matt Macdonald (Hargroves Cycles) took the senior win in the tenth round of the Wessex Cyclo-Cross League.

The 28-year-old won his second race of the series at a wet and muddy Fleming Park in Eastleigh last weekend, with championship leader Jamie Norfolk finishing third, **writes GRAHAM ROBINS.**

After an early tussle with Dan Guest (Performance Cycles), Macdonald controlled the race from the front.

The uphill start made for some tricky decisions on the slippery surface but at halfway Macdonald held a 30-second lead and he held on to a clear win from Guest.

Early-morning rain meant the disused golf course in the centre of town soon cut up.

It included a small wooded section and a log which had to be tackled twice within a short distance.

After the under-12 race, 120 riders raced in the joint veterans'/junior/women's event, with several coming to

grief on the tricky, off-camber descents.

Sean Williams (Cotswold Veldrijden) and Tim Hyde (GS Henley) soon pulled a gap of 30 seconds over junior rider Tom Sewell (Cotswold Veldrijden) and William Macdonald (Take 3 Tri).

As they approached the finish still locked together, Hyde slipped down the inside of his rival to get to the final bend first before taking the win by five seconds on the line.

The +50 vet leader Tim Costello (GS Vecchi) soon picked off his younger rivals on the way to winning his category, while Tamina Oliver (Cotswold Veldrijden) won the women's race.

RESULTS

Seniors: 1. Matt Macdonald (Hargroves Cycles), 2. Dan Guest (Performance Cycles), 3. Jamie Norfolk (PedalOn), 4. Chris Minter (PedalOn), 5. Sam Allen (VC Nantes Atlantique), 6. Joe Hickerton (CC Charlotteville), 7. Karl Norfolk (PedalOn), 8. Richard Lewis (CC Basingstoke), 9. Chris Atkins (Specialized), 10. James Cotty (I-Ride.co.uk).

Vet 40: 1. Tim Hyde (GS Henley), 2. Sean Williams (Cotswold Veldrijden), 3. William Macdonald (Take 3 Tri), 4. Graham Rogerson (Cotswold Veldrijden), 5. Phil Bowley (Alton CC).

Vet +50: 1. Tim Costello (VC Vecchi), 2. Martyn Dymond (Cotswold Veldrijden).



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England SA tour schedule confirmed

ENGLAND'S tour of South Africa next winter will last 72 days, the England and Wales Cricket Board has confirmed. The tour, which will be made up of four Tests, five one-day internationals and two Twenty20s, spans December, January and February 2015-16.

England are due to arrive in South Africa on December 11 and anyone who remains until the final T20 on February 21 will have gone the 72-day distance.

"Any tour of South Africa is special and as the Proteas currently set the benchmark in Test and ODI cricket it will be a real challenge which our emerging team will relish," managing director Paul Downton said.

"We can be assured of fantastic support in South Africa from the thousands of loyal supporters who always follow us around the country – particularly at the Boxing Day Test in Durban and the New Year Test at Newlands in Cape Town."

England will have two long-form warm-up matches against invitational sides before the first Test in Durban which starts on Boxing Day.

After that Tests will take in Cape Town, Johannesburg and Centurion before one-day cricket comes to the fore. Fifty-over clashes will be held in Bloemfontein, Port Elizabeth, Centurion, Johannesburg and Cape Town, before T20s in Cape Town and Johannesburg.

ENGLAND TOUR OF SOUTH AFRICA FIXTURES

December 15-17: SA Invitation XI v England, Senwes Park, Potchefstroom
December 20-22: SA Invitation XI v England, Pietermaritzburg Oval
December 26-30: First Sunfoil Test match, Sahara Stadium Kingsmead, Durban
January 2-6: Second Sunfoil Test match, Newlands, Cape Town
January 14-18: Third Sunfoil Test match, Bidvest Wanderers Stadium, Johannesburg
January 22-26: Fourth Sunfoil Test match, SuperSport Park, Centurion
January 30: One-day tour match, Diamond Oval, Kimberley
February 3: First Momentum ODI, Chevrolet Park, Bloemfontein
February 6: Second Momentum ODI, St. George's Park, Port Elizabeth
February 9: Third Momentum ODI, SuperSport Park, Centurion
February 12: Fourth Momentum ODI, Bidvest Wanderers Stadium, Johannesburg
February 14: Fifth Momentum ODI, Newlands, Cape Town
February 17: T20 tour match, SA Invitation XI v England, Boland Park, Paarl
February 19: First KFC T20 International, Newlands, Cape Town
February 21: Second KFC T20 International, Bidvest Wanderers Stadium, Johannesburg

COOK'S CHANCE TO SILENCE DOUBTERS

ENGLAND have long lauded the virtue of their bespoke winter in preparation for next year's World Cup – but leg one in Sri Lanka is likely to prove an especially awkward assignment.

Alastair Cook's tourists will play exclusively 50-over cricket en route to England's latest attempt to win a one-day international global tournament, in Australia and New Zealand next February and March.

Yet in taxing conditions hardly akin to what they will face down under, they – and their captain in particular – may have more to lose than gain.

National selector James Whitaker was at pains to say that Cook was the man, not only for this short trip to the sub-continent but the longer one to the southern hemisphere starting in January, when he announced an initial 16-man squad almost two months early, and – England must hope – culminating in this country's first World Cup triumph at the end of March.

It is a moot point whether Whitaker's remarks – he declared Cook a "unique leader" ... "100 per cent certain" to remain in charge for the

POINT TO PROVE: Ben Stokes.

World Cup – were a calculated riposte to the opinions of high-profile former players.

Critiques expressed by Graeme Swann and Michael Vaughan, based largely on Cook's sub-80 ODI strike rate, did not amount to a reasoned argument – on the basis the England captain's tempo is mirrored by at least one frontline batsman in most current opposition teams.

RILED

Nonetheless, the captain was riled during the 3-1 home defeat against India which concluded his summer and needs to restate his effectiveness in the format in Sri Lanka over the next month.

Since Whitaker's unequivocal endorsement of Cook's talents, the England and Wales Cricket Board has had to navigate another major PR battle-field to limit damage over the publication of sacked batsman Kevin Pietersen's autobiography.

Events back on the field will now determine whether more strategies have to be hatched before Christmas.

Defeat in Sri Lanka, against opponents who beat England 3-2 in an occasionally fractious series last summer, would not necessarily mean Cook's position and his team's World Cup aspirations get trashed again.

What England cannot afford, though, is to be played off the park by a team who have just suffered a chastening experience themselves

after answering all-powerful neighbours India's urgent request to fill the gap left in their schedule by the West Indies' mid-tour defection.

England's intention is to confirm a 15-man squad, almost immediately after the conclusion of the seven-match series, which will travel for a triangular tournament against India and Australia in January and will also – barring injuries – be the one which contests the World Cup.

Plan A therefore will be routine confirmation of Cook as captain of a squad England will also hope can contain fit-again frontline seamers Stuart Broad and James Anderson.

To reach that point, two victories out of seven sounds like a bare minimum – along with an improvement in Cook's productivity at the top of the order.

Dickey weather patterns in Sri Lanka may mean the series outcome is curtailed by one early no-result.

A scoreline of 4-2 to the hosts or 3-3 is hardly one England will admit to as the limit of their ambitions at the outset.

But if achieved, it could yet be a means to an end for two teams still tinkering with World Cup personnel and permutations – and it would not in itself signify that Cook's England are off course for an acceptable showing in this winter's main event.

Both they and Sri Lanka have much work to do before they head south.

The hosts must marry their own

evolving squad with the expertise of their brilliant old-guard batsmen Kumar Sangakkara and Mahela Jayawardene.

Sri Lanka are at present without the key element of Lasith Malinga's, pictured, brilliant pace variations but hope to have him back from injury in time for the World Cup.

POTENTIAL

England's prospects are vastly enhanced by Malinga's absence as they continue to put faith in the enticing potential of Jos Buttler as a limited-overs game-changer at the highest level and Moen Ali's all-round development.

Ben Stokes is another for whom the winter of 2014/15 will reveal much, while the middle-order form of Ian Bell and Eoin Morgan may also be decisive.

If England are to be badly exposed, their most likely weak suit is the one shorn temporarily of Anderson and Broad.

The remaining seam attack is short on international experience, and it will be surprising if it does not prove vulnerable at some stage.

Cook can only hope that particular hazard does not define the tour.

If it does not, and he makes some runs at a decent rate, the selectors may yet be able to sign off for Christmas by naming their World Cup squad from a position of relative strength.



TALKING POINTS: SRI LANKA v ENGLAND

ENGLAND head to Sri Lanka for seven one day internationals as they up their preparations of next year's World Cup.

Here, the *Sports Pink* looks at the big talking points.

CAPTAIN COOKED? – Well and truly, some of his former teammates would have you believe. Michael Vaughan and Graeme Swann have made it abundantly clear, from behind the radio summariser's mic, that they cannot entertain the opener as England's World Cup captain. He is an admirably resourceful cricketer, however, and has been extended the opportunity to prove his critics and doubters wrong – as he so often has previously.

SINK OR SEAM FOR ENGLAND'S UNDERSTUDIES – Without the injured Stuart Broad and James Anderson to lead the attack, England

head for taxing climes with threadbare experience among their pace bowlers. Steven Finn still has great potential, and has bowled especially well before with a white ball in the sub-continent. His tortured tour of Australia means he cannot be considered the safest bet at this stage, though, and it is not hard to envisage others being vulnerable too – especially in powerplay overs.

RAVI'S BACK – A good thing too, should any of those frontline seamers need bailing out. It was a shock to many that Bopara was left out against India last summer. He remains a match-winner on his day with the bat, and in Sri Lanka his canny variations with the ball could be just what England need too.

THE ABSENTEES – For England, Broad, pictured right, and Anderson will

be missed – although not as much as they would be in the World Cup Down Under. For that reason, it is easy to see why no chances are being taken with Anderson, and to understand the timing of Broad's knee surgery in September. Sri Lanka are without an even more important player. They too hope to have Lasith Malinga back for the global tournament. England will be delighted they do not have to factor in his mesmeric changes of pace on this occasion.

ONE STEP FORWARD?

England have long acclaimed the winter of wall-to-wall 50-over cricket they have arranged for themselves. They have at last broken the cycle of Ashes-World Cup – at a cost already perhaps, given last winter's whitewash and its sorry aftermath.

A tri-series engagement in the host country in January is the result of player feedback after a previous failed World Cup bid, in the West Indies in 2007. While the trip to Sri Lanka provides the right format, however, it is sure to test and promote vastly different skills from those which will prevail in Australia and New Zealand. England's carefully tailored schedule could yet be leading them down a blind alley.

CHILL, CHAPS – There was more than a whiff of discord between these teams last summer. Sri Lanka felt aggrieved over the treatment of Sachithra Senanayake when the off-spinner's bowling action came under suspicion; then Jos Buttler controversially paid with his wicket at Edgbaston, when he tried to get a flying start and was run out backing up. England, under Cook, did themselves few favours when they got hot under the collar on the way to a 5-0 series defeat in India three winters back. He may want to bear that in mind for team talks this time round.





TOUGH ASSIGNMENT:
Alastair Cook.

RAVI KEEN TO GRAB ENGLAND CHANCE

RECALLED Ravi Bopara is out to "have some fun" in Sri Lanka as he sets his sights on a prominent role in England's World Cup winner.

There was an outcry among some pundits when England surprisingly left the 29-year-old, pictured below, out of their Royal London Series squad against India at the end of last summer.

But after losing that encounter 3-1, and attracting plenty of criticism along the way, the selectors wasted no time re-introducing him for this first assignment of a programme designed to help lead England to World Cup glory for the first time in their history at the end of March.

SKIDDY

Bopara, only four shy of 150 limited-overs international caps, is an obvious fit for conditions in which his skiddy variations of pace and power-hitting down the order could well prove invaluable.

He did figure in the three-run Twenty20 victory over India at Edgbaston with which England ended their summer in the absence of Alastair Cook, who captains in Tests and ODIs but not the shortest format.

The Essex pair are reunited in preparation for this seven-match series against a Sri Lanka team who were 'rewarded', for filling the gap left in India's schedule by the defecting West Indies, with a 5-0 trouncing which con-

cluded at the weekend.

Bopara, delighted to be back as England dodged the afternoon storms of Colombo's rainy season to get an initial training session under their belts on Tuesday, made it abundantly clear afterwards just how characteristically excited he is about the opportunity ahead.

He is hardly the first to identify England's "perfect" preparation for the 2015 World Cup, but with Bopara there is never any doubting his sincerity.

"It's ideal in the run-up to

the World Cup," he said.

"The last thing you want is Test matches in between, the team getting jiggered around and changing your tempos.

"I don't think there's any T20s either, so it's the perfect tempo for us to get used to."

It is a moot point whether the requirements of Sri Lanka conditions can help attune England to what will be required in Australia and New Zealand early next year.

It is arguable too Bopara gets his chance specifically because of the location – and he is confident there will be plenty of time to adapt in due course.

"What's even better is we go to Australia and play a series out there – a triangular series, get used to the conditions against two of probably the best teams in the world," he said.

Before then, England cannot afford to be found badly wanting against hosts who need to get back on track themselves.

Bopara senses it is no bad thing that England must first be resourceful, in difficult climes, to arrest Cook's alarming run of series defeats as ODI captain – and then set about finding their feet Down Under when the time comes.

"I think these conditions are good for us," said Bopara.

"In the past we've struggled on the sub continent. But I think our bowlers come more into it on Australian decks, where we've got a bit of bounce and pace.

"Our batters will like a bit of bounce and pace on the ball as well, so it suits our style of play – and yeah, we've got a chance out there.

OMINOUS

"Seven one-dayers is a lot of cricket. When you're talking about getting used to conditions, we've got that triangular series just before the World Cup – that will be the time to really get used to them."

There was an ominous hint of a possible full stop, before the age of 30, when England's new guard dispensed with Bopara against India.

But it would be an anti-climax indeed if his career were to end before he has properly cashed in himself and ultimately repaid England's long investment in his talents.

He has other ideas, and said: "Obviously I was disappointed during the summer. But that's life and I've got a great opportunity here.

"I don't see it as putting pressure on myself and cementing my place. I see it as an opportunity and a good time to have fun.

"You sort of realise when you get dropped from the side what it really means to you.

"You should play every game like it's your last, and really enjoy it."

KP offers to coach schools

FORMER England star Kevin Pietersen has offered to participate in school cricket coaching after expressing disappointment in falling participation levels.

The England and Wales Cricket Board revealed the results of its National Playing Survey this week, showing a seven per cent decrease in participation among the over-14s.

Total playing numbers in 2014 were recorded at 844,000, down from 908,000 for the previous season.

The announcement has been met with consternation within the game.

Former Hampshire player Pietersen, below, whose own participation levels this year fell somewhat following his sacking by England, took to Twitter to have his say.

In a series of messages, the country's leading international run scorer wrote of his dismay at the figures and even opened the door to some grassroots work himself.

"Been off

Twitter for a

while, but

couldn't stay

off when I

heard about

today's

announcement

re drop

off in cricket

participation

over here," he said.

"We've got a fantastic pool of talent here in UK & thought of kids dropping out & not fulfilling potential is frightening & needs changing.

"Any school cricket coaches or after school clubs doing winter training, tweet me and I'll pick a couple next week to join you...?"

"We need to encourage people of all ages to take part. #ILoveCricket."

Pietersen's offer is sure to gain plenty of interest, his star power apparently undimmed by his removal from the international scene and the subsequent controversies caused by his autobiography.

Announcing the survey results, ECB chief operating officer Gordon Hollins said: "ECB recognised the participation challenges that have been facing all team sports and we were determined to gain a greater insight into those issues and find long term solutions.

"To do that ECB changed the way in which it measured participation last year and introduced the new National Cricket Playing Survey as part of our wider efforts to gain a greater understanding of what drives grassroots cricket participation.

"Thanks to an excellent response ECB now has a much clearer picture than ever before of who plays recreational cricket, what type of cricket they prefer to play, when they want to play it, and we are now setting about finding ways in which we can best address their needs going forward."



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CLOSE CONTROL: Action from Southampton (blue) v Bournemouth (yellow). Order no: 21623872



CROSSED STICKS: Action from New Forest (green) v Andover (red). Daily Echo pictures by Habibur Rahman Order no: 21623853



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GOING LOW: Action from New Forest (green) v Andover (red). Order no: 21623843



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ROMSEY MINIS REVVED UP ...

ROMSEY Hockey Club's mixed under-eight mini tournament was a huge success, with youngsters from Andover, Bournemouth, the New Forest, Salisbury, Southampton and Romsey engrossing themselves in day-long competition.

So keen are Romsey's own youngsters, the Abbey club was able to field two sides – the 'first' team drawing with both Salisbury teams and beating the New Forest, with Harriet Field scoring her maiden goal.

Harry Appleton got Romsey IIs' winner against Southampton, while the games with Andover ended goal-less.



BREAK: Action from Salisbury (dark blue) v Southampton (light blue).
Order no: 21623885



BATTLE FOR THE BALL: Action from New Forest (green) v Andover (red).
Order no: 21623858



ON THE RUN: Action from Southampton (blue) v Bournemouth (yellow).
Order no: 21623877



SALISBURY TEAM 1
Order no: 21623913



ANDOVER U8
Order no: 21623919



ROMSEY U10
Order no: 21623894



BOURNEMOUTH U8
Order no: 21623910



BOURNEMOUTH U8 TEAM 2
Order no: 21623941

Title rivals lock out front row

NICO Rosberg grabbed a crucial pole position ahead of Mercedes team-mate Lewis Hamilton in the build-up to the title-deciding Abu Dhabi Grand Prix.

For the 11th time this season Rosberg again held the upper hand in qualifying over Hamilton, who was forced to settle for second best at the Yas Marina circuit.

Hamilton was quickest in the first and second sessions, yet it was Rosberg who pulled out the vital lap when it mattered most in the top-ten shoot-out with a time of one minute 40.480secs – four tenths of a second faster than the Briton.

Heading into qualifying the Mercedes duo had found themselves head and shoulders above their rivals, but come the one-lap clash they came under pressure from Williams.

In Q2, Valtteri Bottas and Felipe Massa were sandwiched by the duo, with Hamilton out in front and Rosberg down in fourth.

Rosberg needs a helping hand from either man in the race as he can take the title with a victory, providing Hamilton is third or worse.

But the Williams pair could only manage third and fourth on the grid, with the Finn just under two tenths of a second behind Hamilton and less than a tenth ahead of Massa.

It means there may yet be a twist in the tail in this season-long battle between the Mercedes pair, with Hamilton's 17-point cushion over Rosberg under threat given double points are controversially on offer for this race.

Assessing the situation, Rosberg said: "It was a great day again today, it all worked out well."

"I put a good lap together in the end, but it's only one very small step. It's about the championship, not about the pole."

"I was hoping for a Williams to be between us, it didn't happen, but hopefully that can be the case tomorrow."

"My mindset now is I need to get the job done, to continue with the form I showed at the last race in Brazil. In any case I'm sure it will be a great race."

Hamilton felt he "generally didn't have the best of laps," but added: "It was still a really good qualifying, I really enjoyed it."

Bottas may yet be the fly in the ointment, although he said: "In the race Mercedes normally have a bit more in hand than they do on a Saturday, so it could be difficult."

"If something happens and we have the pace then there is no doubt we can move forward."

Behind the leading quartet Red Bull's Daniel Ricciardo starts fifth ahead of team-mate Sebastian Vettel in his last event for the Milton Keynes-based marque before joining Ferrari.

Toro Rosso's Daniil Kvyat is seventh, with Jenson Button, potentially taking part in his last race, with McLaren Group CEO Ron Dennis yet to make a decision on who will partner Fernando Alonso in his driver line-up for 2015, eighth.

Ferrari duo Kimi Raikkonen and Alonso are on the fifth row of the grid, with the Finn scoring a rare qualifying success over the Spaniard.

FORMULA ONE: MERCEDES DUO SET FOR 'DUEL IN THE DESERT' TO DECIDE TITLE

ROSBERG URGES HAMILTON TO KEEP IT CLEAN

NICO Rosberg has urged Lewis Hamilton to keep it clean in their Formula One world title showdown in Abu Dhabi tomorrow.

The warning came ahead of their end-of-season clash at the Yas Marina circuit being dubbed the 'Duel in the Desert'.

It was a reminder from Rosberg to Hamilton to play fair, despite the contentious issues that may have occurred between the duo over the course of the past few months.

In particular, Rosberg's manoeuvre in qualifying in Monaco when he appeared to make a mistake before reversing back on track, so ensuring himself of pole position in the process, has been deemed deliberate by many seasoned observers.

A few months later at the Belgian Grand Prix, Rosberg, pictured right, deliberately opted not to pull out of a crash with Hamilton who was later forced to retire from the race with damage sustained in the incident.

With Hamilton in control of the current situation as he has a 17-point lead over Rosberg, he could easily decide to take matters into his own hands, as has occasionally been the way in F1 in the past.

Asked whether it would be a totally clean fight, Hamilton replied: "Yeah, I don't really know what else to say. That's

how it's been.

"You have to go into the weekends believing that's going to be the case."

Pushed as to whether any conversations between the duo would

be necessary ahead of the race, Hamilton initially issued a stern "no".

Suggested to the 29-year-old it was unnecessary or they already had an understanding, Hamilton added: "We don't need to."

"It's already been discussed at the beginning of the season and several times through the season, and particularly after Spa."

"There's no reason to revisit it. We're not children, we should know what is wrong and what is right."

Asked for his thoughts, Rosberg

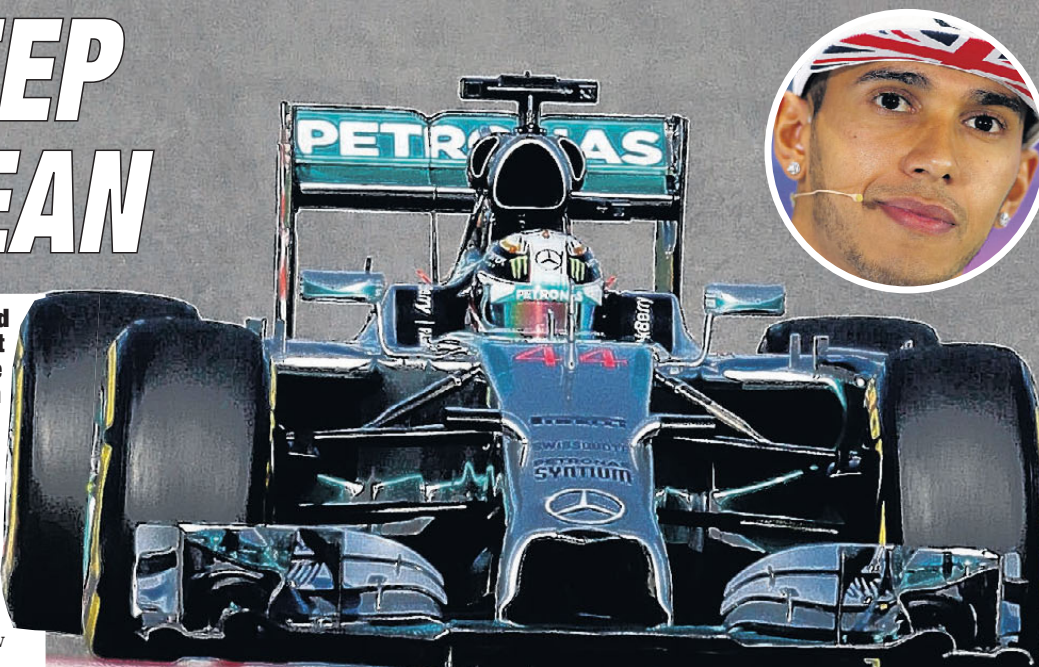
made clear it is down to Hamilton to stay on the straight and narrow.

Rosberg said: "Lewis can do something to keep it clean which is drive cleanly himself. It's not like he can't do anything."

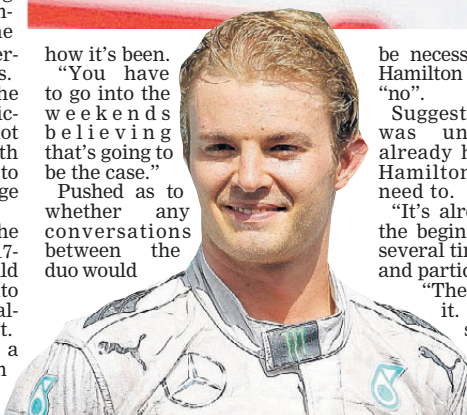
Of the two, Rosberg appeared the more composed, albeit with Hamilton insisting he was not feeling the heat of the situation.

"In terms of the pressure, I don't particularly feel any," said Hamilton.

"I've had plenty of experience through my racing career – 15 odd years I would say, actually it might be 20 years of racing – to be prepared. There's no special recipe for it."



SHOWDOWN: Lewis Hamilton, main picture and inset, will battle with Mercedes team-mate Nico Rosberg for the world title.



Stoneman puts championship blow behind him

DEAN Stoneman continued his sensational end to the GP3 Series with another win in Abu Dhabi.

Stoneman's slim championship hopes ended on Friday, when he failed to qualify in pole position at Yas Marina, **writes SIMON WALTER.**

But after starting second on the grid he overtook Marvin Kirchhöfer before the first turn and raced to his second win in three races since joining Koiranen GP, having finished first and second in Sochi last month.

His lead was never under significant threat despite a third-lap safety car and the loss of a mirror.

The 24-year-old cancer survivor from Bishop's Waltham said: "I got a great start but could see Marvin coming alongside me. I was able to hold my position into turn one but it wasn't easy."

"Throughout the race I had to really battle with the heat; it very was hot. At one point I had sweat just pouring down my face and into my eyes."

Speaking to gp3series.com, Dean, right, continued: "After about lap six the rear tyres just dropped off. I just knew in myself I had to bring the car home and get the points and make sure I beat Marvin."

"I lost my right-hand wing mirror as well on the second lap and

nobody will realise how hard it is to drive a GP3 car with no wing mirror."

"So we had that issue but I kept it smooth and tried to look after the tyres. I could see Marvin had a little hiccup after the first few laps, but I made a good re-start after the safety car."

Stoneman, who has 68 points from his three races with Koiranen GP, is two points clear of third-placed Kirchhöfer going into the final race of the season, and 32 behind champion Alex Lynn, who finished fifth today.

He added: "I need to finish ahead of Marvin, or just one place behind him. I want to win tomorrow or at least get a podium like I did in Sochi."





LAST-DAY DRAMA: John Surtees, left, and Kimi Raikkonen became world champions at the final race of the season.

GOING DOWN TO THE WIRE

SIX OF THE BEST FORMULA ONE TITLE DECIDERS

TOMORROW sees a potentially thrilling climax in store to this season's Formula One world championship between Mercedes rivals Lewis Hamilton and Nico Rosberg.

Hamilton has the edge with a 17-point cushion to Rosberg going into the final race at Abu Dhabi's Yas Marina circuit.

But with double points controversially available for this race the German's chances of claiming his maiden crown have been enhanced.

Here, the *Sports Pink* reflects on six of the best of the sport's most-exciting title deciders of the past.

2008 Brazilian Grand Prix

Going into the race with a seven-point lead over Ferrari's Felipe Massa, Hamilton, then with McLaren, knew fifth at worst would be enough to secure him the crown even if his rival won.

On the final lap and with rain falling, Hamilton was sixth. Forty seconds ahead of him Massa crossed the line to take the victory, resulting in huge celebrations in the Ferrari garage and in the grandstands at the latter's home circuit of Interlagos. But in the most dramatic of circumstances on the final corner, Hamilton passed Toyota's Timo Glock to take the fifth place he needed and with it the title.

2007 Brazilian Grand Prix

A year earlier Hamilton held a four-point lead over McLaren team-mate Fernando Alonso and was seven clear of Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen. From second on the grid, Hamilton endured a wretched first lap, dropping to eighth.

On lap six it went from bad to worse as Hamilton's car lost power, only for it to get going again, by which time he was 18th. Despite a brave attempt to claw his way back, Hamilton could



EDGED OUT: From left: Fernando Alonso, Felipe Massa and Nigel Mansell have all lost out in final race title showdowns.

only finish seventh behind winner Raikkonen, with Alonso third, leaving both McLaren men a point behind the Finn.

1997 European Grand Prix

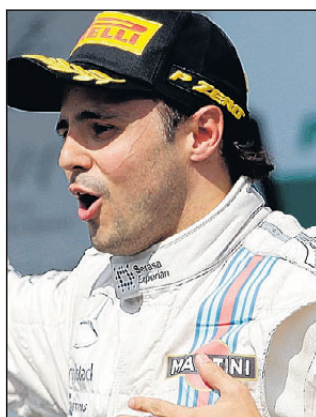
A point was all that separated Ferrari's Michael Schumacher and Williams rival Jacques Villeneuve going into their clash in Jerez.

Schumacher dominated for the majority of the race until lap 48, when Villeneuve attempted a pass – only for the two to collide. Schumacher was forced to retire, and although Villeneuve's car was damaged, he was able to finish third and claim the championship.

Schumacher was later excluded from the drivers' standings after he was found guilty of deliberately causing an accident.

1994 Australian Grand Prix

Three years earlier Schumacher escaped punishment for what many to this day believe was another deliberate act on Williams' Damon Hill at the Adelaide street circuit.



Again a point was the thin dividing line between the duo ahead of a race where the defining moment arrived on lap 36. With Schumacher leading, but Hill closing, the German went off track and clipped a wall. As he returned, Hill attempted to overtake, but with the duo running into another. Schumacher retired immediately, whilst Hill limped back to the pits where he and his championship dreams also retired.

1986 Australian Grand Prix

Again Adelaide was the scene of high drama, and cruel luck for Nigel Mansell.

Leading McLaren's Alain Prost and Williams' teammate Nelson Piquet in the standings, Mansell was on course for the title as he was running a sufficient second with 19 laps remaining, only for his left-rear tyre to explode and send him out of the race. That left race-leader Piquet as favourite, only for Williams to call him in for a tyre change given their concerns over the rubber as Keke Rosberg had also retired with a



puncture the lap before, allowing Prost to take up the lead.

Although Piquet pushed hard, he finished 4.2 seconds adrift at the finish, giving the Frenchman the title.

1964 Mexican Grand Prix

Arguably the most dramatic of all the last-day finales.

Again three drivers were involved, all Britons in Graham Hill, John Surtees and Jim Clark, with the latter duo five and nine points adrift of the former respectively.

With Clark leading from pole, Hill's hopes were hit when Surtees' Ferrari teammate Lorenzo Bandini ran into the back of him. Clark seemed assured of the title, only for his engine to seize on the penultimate lap. Surtees was third at the time, but needed second for the title, with Bandini holding that position.

As the Italian crossed the line to start the last lap, he was ordered to slow by his team on the pit wall. Bandini obliged, allowing Surtees to pass and clinch the championship by a point over Hill.

CITY OF SOUTHAMPTON SUNDAY LEAGUE STANDINGS

Senior Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
KRL	6	5	0	1	34	9	15
AFC Bursledon	5	4	1	0	21	6	13
Hamble Roll Call	3	3	0	0	15	3	9
Yacht Tavern	5	3	0	2	15	11	9
Sholing United	5	3	0	2	17	17	9
AFC West End	4	1	1	2	7	7	4
Bush Hill & NH	3	1	0	2	9	11	3
Cricketers Arms	6	1	0	5	15	20	3
Aldermoor United	7	0	0	7	5	54	0

Junior Division One

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ice House	5	5	0	0	26	7	15
AFC Riverside	6	4	1	1	13	9	13
Titans	5	3	1	1	16	8	10
Glen	7	3	0	4	20	21	9
Sky Blues	6	3	0	3	16	23	9
Landguard Rovers	6	2	1	3	26	23	7
Chamberlayne Athletic	8	2	1	5	16	18	7
AFC Portswood	5	2	0	3	16	24	6
Chartwell Green	5	1	2	2	12	15	5
RS Ocean Village	5	1	0	4	9	22	3

Junior Division Two

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Itchen Saints	6	5	1	0	29	6	16
S & D Youth	8	5	1	2	23	21	16
Testlands	6	4	0	2	21	8	12
Hamble Roll Call Res	6	3	1	2	18	13	10
Phoenix AFC	6	3	0	3	13	14	9
Boytatt Wood Wndrs	4	2	0	2	7	11	6
Lokomotive Eastleigh	6	1	2	3	8	15	5
LH Galaxy	8	0	3	5	11	26	3
Athletico Tin Hut	4	0	0	4	5	21	0

Junior Division Three

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Trant	8	7	0	1	44	9	21
Hedge End Athletic	6	6	0	0	38	10	18
Test Valley Spartans	7	4	0	3	20	22	12
AFC Bishopstoke	6	3	0	3	13	17	9
Bishops	5	2	0	3	15	22	6
Young Boys 93/4	2	1	0	1	6	5	3
AFC Velmore	5	1	0	4	12	16	3
Ego	3	1	0	2	7	17	3
Chartwell Green Res	4	1	0	3	6	17	3
Fleming Sports	6	0	0	6	8	34	0

Junior Division Four

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Marchwood Rangers	8	5	1	2	29	16	16
Carnival UK	7	4	1	2	34	22	13
King George	5	4	0	1	17	11	12
Shelfish	7	4	0	3	31	28	12
Durley	6	3	2	1	17	12	11
Eastpoint	6	3	1	2	20	17	10
AFC Southbrook	6	3	0	3	23	17	9
Holbury United	7	3	0	4	24	29	9
Royale Marine	6	0	1	5	10	20	1
Otter Sunday	6	0	0	6	7	40	0

Junior Division Five

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sholing Monks	7	6	0	1	32	14	18
Curbridge	6	4	1	1	22	6	13
Brook Park Sports	6	4	0	2	30	9	12
Dorchester Arms	5	4	0	1	21	8	12
Bitterne Ducks	8	4	0	4	29	31	12
Portswood United	8	2	2	4	14	16	8
Burridge AFC	5	2	1	2	12	11	7
Itchen Albion	4	2	0	2	6	11	6
Portside	3	1	0	2	5	6	3
St Minions	6	1	0	5	13	41	3
Soton SeaHawks	6	0	0	6	4	35	0

Junior Division Six

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Netley Royals	7	7	0	0	29	11	21
Mottisfont	6	6	0	0	39	5	18
Hunters Inn	6	6	0	0	31	2	18
Fawley RBL	6	4	1	1	34	16	13
JSC	6	2	0	4	12	16	6
Unity	6	2	0	4	10	23	6
AFC Phoenix	6	1	1	4	9	17	4
AFC Spitfire	7	1	1	5	13	27	4
Sporting Compass	7	0	2	5	8	31	2
Bannister Park	7	0	1	6	6	43	1

Junior Division Seven

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AFC Waterside	7	6	1	0	59	4	19
Dorchester Manor	6	5	0	1	33	11	15
AFC Bishopstoke Res	6	5	0	1	29	10	15
Portswood United Res	6	3	1	2	19	14	10
Netley RBL	6	3	0	3	24	17	9
Woodside AFC	7	3	0	4	19	30	9
Lyndhurst Junior FC	3	2	0	1	9	6	6
Chamberlayne Ath Res	6	1	2	3	8	29	5
Testwood Tornados	9	0	1	8	14	52	1
AFC Carnival	6	0	1	5	4	45	1

● Tables do not include this weekend's games.

Horse Racing

FREE THE EXETER PICK

KAKI De La Pree has the potential to be an exciting recruit to chasing this season and makes his debut in the Bathwick Tyres Taunton Novices' Chase at Exeter.

Trained by Nicky Henderson's former assistant Tom Symonds, the seven-year-old made startling progress through the ranks last season.

Second to Kings Palace in a maiden hurdle last October, he then won at Chepstow and Carlisle, beating subsequent Grand National hero Pineau De Re at the latter venue.

Symonds then stepped him up in class and while he was not totally disgraced in the Grade One Challow Hurdle at Newbury, he was maybe not quite ready for such a test, especially as it came barely a week after his Carlisle win.

On his next outing in Grade Two company at Haydock in February, he was a well-beaten second behind Touberea, who was getting plenty of weight, but he did finish in front of

the touted Oscar Rock.

He ended the season with a rating of 138 and being from the family of Kildimo, the switch to fences should bring about improvement.

Philip Hobbs has his team in flying form and Roll The Dice can give him another success in the Bathwick Tyres Barnstaple Handicap Chase.

He has hit the bar in both outings so far this season, kicking off with a fine third over what was probably a slightly inadequate trip at Exeter last month.

Roll The Dice then filled the same position at Fontwell just over two weeks ago, when a blunder five fences from seemed to take his toll as he had nothing left at the finish.

His current mark of 107 puts him 5lb lower than his best and with that in mind, his turn must surely be coming.

Whispering Harry is already a better chaser than hurdler and it would not be the biggest shock to see him score again in the Bathwick Tyres Handicap Chase.

It is not surprising Dr Richard Newland runs Royale Knight back

over hurdles at Towcester after the punishment the handicapper dished out for his recent win over fences.

He turned Sedgfield's Durham National into a procession but was raised 15lb because of it.

Something like Warwick's Classic Chase, in which he was third last year, seems a logical target but off a 15lb lower mark over timber, he should be competitive in the Visit The Forum At gg.com Handicap Hurdle.

SUNDAY'S SELECTIONS

EXTER: 1.05 Brantingham Breeze, 1.35 Flash Crash, 2.05 Roll The Dice, 2.35 KAKI DE LA PREE (NAP), 3.05 Whispering Harry, 3.35 Dandy, 4.05 Bedouin Bay.

NAVAN: 12.25 Milsean, 12.55 Free Expression, 1.25 Zigger Zaggar, 1.55 Vautour, 2.25 Black Benny, 2.55 Silver Tassie, 3.25 Josephine Marcus.

TOWCESTER: 12.45 Glenariff, 1.15 Le Grand Chene, 1.45 Yasir, 2.15 Ringa Bay, 2.45 Royale Knight, 3.15 Wicklewwood, 3.45 Big Jim.

DOUBLE: Kaki De La Pree and Royale Knight.



FANCIED: Richard Johnson saddles second favourite Return Spring in the 2.35 at Exeter.

EXETER

Going: Heavy

1.05 BATHWICK TYRES BIDEFORD HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS 5). £3,500 added 3YO PLUS 2m 5f 110yds Penalty Value £2,274.

1	232U-F	BRANTINGHAM BREEZE (12) Miss E Lavelle 6 11 12	.....	R O'Dea (10)
2	540-00	MYSTIC APPEAL (IRE) (182) (D) J Scott 8 11 11	.....	N Schofield
3	5-5055	HAVERSTOCK (18) Mrs C Keevil 4 11 10	.....	Mr M Legg (7)
4	0004/2	LEGION D'HONNEUR (JAE) (19) (D) C Down 9 11 9	.....	J M Davies
5	24/3-1	BREDON HILL LAD (FR) (19) (D) S D Dixon 11 10 10	.....	Mr L Kilgariff (7)
6	6-2326	WARSAW PACT (IRE) (28) (C) S D Dixon 11 10 10	.....	Mr L Kilgariff (7)
7	45F0-P	AROSEFOROSCAR (10) C Down 5 10 8	.....	K Edgar (5)
8	0P00-0	STRATEGIC EXIT (214) J Frost 6 10 0	.....	T Scudamore
9	-96452	UNEFILE DE GUYE (FR) (10) (BF) V Dartnall 6 10 0	.....	G Hawkins (3)

BETTING: 11-4 Bredon Hill Lad, 7-2 Unefile De Guye, 5-1 Brantingham Breeze, 6-1 Legion D'honneur, 8-1 Warsaw Pact, 10-1 Haverstock, 12-1 Mystic Appeal, 16-1 Aroseforoscar, 20-1 Strategic Exit.

1.35 BATHWICK TYRES PLYMOUTH HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS 4). £5,500 added 4YO PLUS 2m 7f 110yds Penalty Value £3,574.

1	/20-4F	LUNDY SKY (169) (CD) R Woolcott 9 11 12	.....	D Jacob
2	433322	FLASH CRASH (21) (BF) Jim Best 5 11 9	.....	N Fehily

TOWCESTER

Going: Soft

12.45 HAYGAIN HAY STEAMERS CLEAN HEALTHY FORAGE MARES' NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES' HURDLE (CLASS 4). £5,000 added 4YO PLUS 2m Penalty Value £3,249.

101	5213-3	BALLYHOLLOW (42) (CD) Miss R Curtis 7 10 10	.....	J Maguire
102	0/23-	BARRS LANE (409) A Whiting 6 10 10	.....	G Derwin (7)
103	6-30	BONNIE MAJOR (198) G Enright 4 10 10	.....	H Haynes
104	05	CATKIN COPSE (184) R Phillips 6 10 10	.....	S Twiston-Davies
105	33	GLENARIFF (31) J W Mullins 5 10 10	.....	A Thornton
106	00	KATARRHINI T Symonds 5 10 10	.....	B Poste (5)
107	00-0	LEAD THE WAY (340) J Portman 4 10 10	.....	R McLernon
108	007-0	PATTARA (10) Noel Williams 5 10 10	.....	G Tumley
109	1-220	QUIET CANDID (IRE) (18) N Henderson 5 10 10	.....	J McGrath (3)
110	46-	STAND 'N' BOOGIE (231) Mrs P Sly 4 10 10	.....	Kieran Woods

BETTING: 11-8 Ballyhollow, 3-1 Quiet Candid, 7-1 Barrs Lane, 8-1 Glenariff, 10-1 Stand 'n' Boogie, 12-1 Catkin Copse, 16-1 Katarrhini, 25-1 Lead The Way, 50-1 others.

1.15 DON'T MISS OUT WITH GG.COM ALERTS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS 5). £5,000 added 4YO PLUS 2m 3f 110yds Penalty Value £3,249.

201	-04641	LE GRAND CHENE (FR) (17) (CD) Mrs S Leech 8 11 12	.....	R McLernon
202	61P5-P	ACCORDING TO THEM (IRE) (D) Steele 10 11 7	.....	Freddie Mitchell (7)

3	000-52	OBISTAR (FR) (21) D Pipe 4 11 2	.....	T Scudamore
4	0600-3	ABSOLUTELY BYGONES (IRE) (11) Miss J Du Plessis 6 11 2	.....	James Best

BETTING: 7-4 Obistar, 9-4 Flash Crash, 6-1 Absolutely Bygones, 13-2 Tara Tavey, 8-1 Look For Love, 12-1 Lundy Sky.

2.05 BATHWICK TYRES BARNSTAPLE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS 3). £15,000 added 4YO PLUS 3m Penalty Value £9,495.

1	51323-	BIG SOCIETY (IRE) (213) (C) T R George 8 11 12	.....	P Brennan
2	PIU1U-	BARTON GIFT (231) (CD)(BF) J Spearing 7 11 4	.....	N De Boinville (3)
3	P01-22	MIDNIGHT LIRA (6) (C) Mrs C Keevil 7 11 2	.....	James Best
4	156-P	STORM ALERT (10) (CD) Mrs S Gardner 7 11 0	.....	Miss L Gardner (5)
5	1111/5	JUPITER REX (FR) (11) (D) Miss V Williams 7 10 13	.....	A Coleman
6	3P22-3	RUSSE BLANC (FR) (23) R Lee 7 10 11	.....	C Poste
7	/4P-33	ROLL THE DICE (IRE) (16) P Hobbs 8 10 10	.....	R Johnson

BETTING: 11-4 Midnight Lira, 3-1 Roll The Dice, 9-2 Barton Gift, 6-1 Big Society, Russe Blanc, 13-2 Jupiter Rex, 25-1 Storm Alert.

2.35 BATHWICK TYRES TAUNTON NOVICES' CHASE (CLASS 3). £15,000 added 4YO PLUS

203	264-33	CARHUE PRINCESS (IRE) (16) (C) T Symonds 8 11 6	.....	B Poste (5)
204	4F0-P3	RED ANCHOR (IRE) (12) (D) Mrs L Jewell 10 11 1	.....	A Thornton
205	503P-3	I KNOW THE CODE (IRE) (237) Miss L Siddall 9 11 0	.....	T Siddall
206	0-56P5	KILLFINNAN CASTLE (IRE) (46) (D) Violet Jordan 11 10 2	.....	Will Kennedy
207	05-P24	WHEELAVHER (13) Miss C Dyson 8 10 0	.....	T Whelan (3)
208	3PP-43	GAINSBOROUGH'S ART (IRE) (14) (D) H Chisman 9 10 0	.....	D Hiskett (7)

BETTING: 5-2 Le Grand Chene, 3-1 I Know The Code, 4-1 Carhue Princess, 6-1 According To Them, 7-1 Red Anchor, 12-1 Wheelavher, 14-1 Killfinnan Castle, 50-1 Gainsborough's Art.

1.45 HAPPY 40TH BIRTHDAY DUNCAN LEWIN CLAIMING HURDLE (CLASS 5). £4,000 added 4YO PLUS 2m Penalty Value £2,599.

301	340222	GUD DAY (IRE) (13) (D) F O'Brien 6 11 8	.....	Miss A Stirling (7)
302	-44303	OCCASIONALLY YOURS (IRE) (17) (D) A Blackmore 10 11 5	.....	J Akhurst (7)

303	30-245	YASIR (USA) (F10) C Dore 6 11 5	.....	Peter Carberry (3)
304	05443P	VINNIE MY BOY (IRE) (29) P Bowen 6 10 13	.....	J Moore
305	6-3216	FORMAL BID (IRE) (23) (D) G Elliott (IRE) 7 10 7	.....	J Maguire

BETTING: 6-4 Formal Bid, 7-4 Vinnie My Boy, 5-1 Gud Day, 8-1 Yasir, 14-1 Occasionally Yours.

2.15 BEST RACING BLOGS ON GG.COM HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS 4). £10,000 added 4YO PLUS 3m 110yds Penalty Value £6,330.

401	P11265	BIG GENERATOR (39) Mrs C Bailey 8 11 12	A Thornton
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3m Penalty Value £9,495.

1	3P210-	CADEAU GEORGE (221) (D) B Pauling 5 11 0	J M Davies
2	21152-	KAKI DE LA PREE (FR) (281) (D) T Symonds 7 11 0	F de Giles
3	100-03	RETURN SPRING (IRE) (19) (D) P Hobbs 7 11 0	.....	R Johnson
4	1110-4	HIGHLAND RETREAT (37) (CD)(BF) H Fry 7 10 7	.....	N Fehily

BETTING: 11-8 Highland Retreat, 9-4 Return Spring, 5-2 Kaki De La Pree, 12-1 Cadeau George.

3.05 BATHWICK TYRES HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS 3). £15,000 added 4YO PLUS 2m 1f 110yds Penalty Value £9,495.

1	42113-	HEADLY'S BRIDGE (IRE) (226) S Earle 8 11 12	.....	P Brennan
2	1/362-	UREPTO (FR) (214) (D) Miss V Williams 6 11 7	.....	A Coleman
3	512P-0	TORNADO IN MILAN (IRE) (15) E Williams 8 11 4	.....	P Moloney
4	5100-0	LORD PROTECTOR (IRE) (18) (BF) P Hobbs 7 11 4	.....	R Johnson
5	131-41	WHISPERING HARRY (18) Henry Oliver 5 10 11	.....	J M Davies

BETTING: 2-1 Whispering Harry, 3-1 Headly's Bridge, 7-2 Lord Protector, 9-2 Urepto, 7-1 Tornado In Milan.

3.35 BATHWICK TYRES BRIDGWATER NOVICES' HURDLE (CLASS 4). £5,000 added 4YO PLUS 2m 1f Penalty Value £3,249.

1	62-U22	AN TARBH OG (IRE) (174) Mrs C Keevil 6 10 12	James Best
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402	PUP-54	RINGA BAY (16) (D7) D Bridgwater 9 11 11	J Hodson (7)
403	0U-P24	UNION JACK D'YCY (FR) (8) Miss V Williams 6 11 11	L Treadwell
404	14U000	FRIENDLY SOCIETY (IRE) (101) (D) Noel Williams 9 11 11	.....	James Banks (3)
405	2P60-P	WINDS AND WAVES (IRE) (31) H Daly 8 11 8	.....	J Greenall
406	2505P-	MUSICAL WEDGE (245) (CD) Miss C Dyson 10 11 4	.....	T Whelan (3)
407	5P/PP-	WOLF HALL (IRE) (363) Violet Jordan 7 10 4	.....	Will Kennedy

BETTING: 11-4 Union Jack D'ycy, 3-1 Big Generator, 7-2 Winds And Waves, 4-1 Ringa Bay, 8-1 Friendly Society, 14-1 Musical Wedge, 33-1 Wolf Hall.

2.45 HAPPY BIRTHDAY JANET BALDWIN HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS 3). £10,000 added 4YO PLUS 3m Penalty Value £6,330.

501	10P2-3	CHAVOY (FR) (204) (D) Rebecca Menzies 9 11 12	.....	T Kelly (3)
502	023-41	ROYALE KNIGHT (24) (CD) Dr R Newland 8 11 10	.....	C Ward (5)
503	114P-0	WALDORF SALAD (21) (D) Miss V Williams 6 11 9	.....	L Treadwell
504	5615-P	WESTAWAY (IRE) (20) (D) D Arbuthnot 7 11 8	.....	T Cannon
505	3P210-	CADEAU GEORGE (221) (D) B Pauling 5 11 6	.....	J M Davies
506	P21-33	LOCK TOWERS (IRE) (18) (D) B Pauling 5 11 0	.....	D Bass
507	1P2-63	JAUNTY JOURNEY (29) (D) N Twiston-Davies 11 10 10	.....	S Twiston-Davies

BETTING: 5-2 Royale Knight, 5-1 American Life, 6-1 Jaunty Journey, 7-1 Waldorf Salad, Chavoy, 8-1 Westaway, 10-1 Lock Towers, 14-1 Malibu Rock, Cadeau George.

Sunday's runners

2	3	DANDY (GER) (25) A Balding 5 10 12	.....	T J O'Brien
3	60	DUNNICKS SKIPPER (10) Mrs S Gardner 6 10 12	.....	Miss L Gardner (5)
4	0U053-	MA'IRE RUA (IRE) (245) A Jones 7 10 12	.....	R T Dunne
5	U3-	MOUNT PROSPEX (IRE) (224) T Dennis 5 10 12	.....	K Edgar (5)
6	5-23	PULL THE CHORD (IRE) (24) (BF) P Hobbs 4 10 12	.....	R Johnson
7	56P1P-	SANGRAM (IRE) (238) J Frost 7 10 12	.....	Conor O'Farrell
8	0P/P50	TOM NEARY (IRE) (26) K Burke 7 10 12	.....	N Schofield
9	050	HAPPY OCCASION (IRE) A Dunn 4 10 5	.....	A Wedge
10	P66P00	HUNTSMAN'S LADY (IRE) (33) J Frost 4 10 5	.....	Miss B Frost (7)
11	46/0	ICE TREES (33) C Down 5 10 5	.....	J M Davies

BETTING: 10-11 Dandy, 7-4 Pull The Chord, 12-1 Ma'ire Rua, 16-1 Ice Trees, An Tarbh Og, 25-1 Mount Prospek, 33-1 Tom Neary, Sangram, 50-1 others.

4.05 BATHWICK TYRES CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS 4). £5,000 added 3YO PLUS 2m 1f Penalty Value £3,249.

1	0/0P-0	CROUCHING HARRY (IRE) (18) Mrs A Murphy 5 11 12	.....	C Shoemark
2	13U046	BEDOUIN BAY (78) (D) J Farrelly 7 11 12	.....	K Edgar
3	40-516	THUNDERING HOME (10) (CJD) N Mitchell 7 11 10	.....	T Bellamy
4	P0400-	XARACET (IRE) (250) (C) C Tizzard 7 11 5	.....	Paul O'Brien (8)
5	/P335-	JUST SPOT (20) K Bishop 7 11 4	.....	James Best
6	066/3	PIANO CONCERTO (USA) (479) Mrs S Leech 7 11 1	.....	K Moore (3)
7	02-612	JIGSAW FINANCIAL (IRE) (33) Mrs L Young 8 11 0	.....	M Griffiths
8	-541P0	KOZMINA BAY (10) B J Llewellyn 5 10 1	.....	Rob Williams (3)

BETTING: 5-2 Jigsaw Financial, 11-4 Thundering Home, 6-1 Piano Concerto, 7-1 Just Spot, 8-1 Xaracet, Bedouin Bay, 12-1 Kozmina Bay, 16-1 Crouching Harry.

Sunday's runners

3.15 AJA INSURE THEIR MEMBERS AMATEUR RIDERS' HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS 5). £3,500 added 4YO PLUS 2m 110yds Penalty Value £2,184.

601	P-1314	WICKLEWOOD (160) (CD) M Gillard 8 11 12	.....	Mr T Gillard (7)
602	411-24	THE INFORMANT (32) (D) J W Mullins 8 11 8	.....	Mr D Sansom (7)
603	0/00P6	SPECIAL MATTE (31) (D) Lady S Brooke 8 11 1	.....	Miss L Brooke (5)
604	201-44	GRAND ARTICLE (IRE) (173) (CD) P Cowley 10 10 13	.....	Miss G Andrews

BETTING: 2-1 The Informant, 9-4 Wicklewwood, 3-1 Grand Article, 8-1 Special Matte, 14-1 Beauchamp Viking, 16-1 Top Benefit.

3.45 FREE TIPS EVERY DAY ON GG.COM INTERMEDIATE OPEN NH FLAT RACE (CLASS 6). £3,000 added 4 to 6YO 2m Penalty Value £1,949.

01	1-	BIG JIM (273) (CD) A Hales 5 11 7	.....	Will Kennedy
02	0	AMIDON (FR) (198) Mrs L Wadham 4 11 0	.....	L Aspell
03	52/26-	BIG MIKE (IRE) (271) (BF) Mrs S Humphrey 6 11 0	.....	J Quinlan
04	0	LEATHERNEURUNDY (IRE) B Powell 4 11 0	.....	B J Powell
05	0-50	TICKETORIDE (144) P Pritchard 6 11 0	.....	Jack Doyle
06	4	TOOHIGHFORME (IRE) (273) N Gifford 5 11 0	.....	T Cannon

BETTING: 6-4 Big Jim, 2-1 Big Mike, 3-1 Leatherneurdy, 12-1 Toohighforme, 20-1 Amidon, 50-1 Ticketoride.



NAVAN Sunday's runners

Going: Yielding to Soft

12.25 I.N.H. STALLION OWNERS E.B.F. MAIDEN HURDLE. £10,000 added 4YO PLUS 2m Penalty Value EUR8300.

101	30-0	ANOTHER RATTLER (IRE) (22) P J Rothwell 5 11 12	M P Walsh
102	0	DOLLAR AND A DREAM (IRE) (22) A J Martin 5 11 12	B T O'Connell
103	1/21-	MILSEAN (IRE) (22) C D W P Mullins 5 11 12	B J Cooper
104	135000	TOPPER THORNTON (IRE) (15) C A McBratney 5 11 12	A P Heskin
105	P-400	BLACKWATER BRIDGE (IRE) (14) A J Martin 4 11 9	R Loughran
106		ORDINARY WORLD (IRE) H de Bromhead 4 11 9	R C Colgan
107	4	SCORPION WELLS (IRE) (110) Ms Margaret Mullins 4 11 9	A J McNamara

108	2-12	SNOW FALCON (IRE) (23) D N Meade 4 11 9	P Carberry
109		SPACE CADET (IRE) G Elliott 4 11 9	K Sexton (3)
110		TWO COOL SHABRA (IRE) Anthony McCann 4 11 9	Jonathan Moore

111	22-160	PHONE BOOTH (IRE) (15) Robert Tyler 6 11 5	P T Enright
112	500-0	SUNSHARP (IRE) (15) Mrs G Callaghan 6 11 5	K M Donoghue

BETTING: 4-9 Miseen, 4-1 Snow Falcon, 8-1 Scorpion Wells, 12-1 Ordinary World, 14-1 Space Cadet, 33-1 Two Cool Shabra, Blackwater Bridge, Another Rattler, Phone Booth, Topper Thornton, Dollar And A Dream, 66-1 Sunsharp.

12.55 'MONKSFIELD' NOVICE HURDLE (GRADE 2). £31,250 added 4YO PLUS 2m 4f Penalty Value EUR24400.

201	/41-11	MARTELLO TOWER (IRE) (21) D Ms Margaret Mullins 6 11 6	A P Heskin
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202	-21652	FORT SMITH (IRE) (14) G Elliott 5 11 3	B J Cooper
203	11-1	FREE EXPRESSION (IRE) (15) G Elliott 5 11 3	M P Walsh
204	1/3-21	KAUTO GRAND MOGOL (FR) (14) Miss E Doyle 6 11 3	B T O'Connell
205	264-51	ROCK THE WORLD (IRE) (22) Mrs J Harrington 6 11 3	B J Geraghty
206	61512	SANG TIGER (GER) (42) C J J Lambie 6 11 3	P Townend
207	3-1222	SHANTOU FLYER (IRE) (24) C Bowe 4 10 13	A J McNamara

BETTING: 5-2 Martello Tower, 3-1 Free Expression, 4-1 Kauto Grand Mogol, 5-1 Fort Smith, 7-1 Rock The World, 8-1 Sang Tiger, 16-1 Shantou Flyer.

1.25 NAVAN RACE MEMBERSHIP CLUB NOW AVAILABLE HANDICAP HURDLE (80-109).

1	100516	LOUIS VEE (IRE) (74) (CD)(BF) R Brotherton 6 9 6	T Eaves 6
2	006-40	PAVERS BOUNTY (157) N Wilson 3 9 5	J Fanning 1
3	045616	AARANYOW (IRE) (19) (CD) C Lines 6 9 5	T Atkinson (5) 7
4	050622	GIVE US A BELLE (IRE) (52) (CD) Mrs C Dunnett 5 9 5	A Kirby 4
5	635431	YOUR GIFTED (IRE) (10) (CD) Mrs M Williamson 7 9 4	R Hornby (7) 3
6	051653	PEARL NOIR (21) (CD)(BF) S Dixon 4 9 4	L Morris 8
7	320404	MASTER OF DISCUSE (249) (CD) B Baugh 8 9 4	P Makin 10
8	110600	MY METEOR (17) (D) A Newcombe 7 9 4	D Brock (3) 9
9	000000	SHIRLEY'S PRIDE (27) (D) M Appleby 4 9 3	A Rawlinson (5) 11
10	041532	DANCING JUICE (110) (D) B Ellison 3 9 3	G Gibbons 12
11	525600	COLLEGE DOLL (19) (CD) Mrs C Dunnett 5 9 3	J Quinn 13
12	032314	DANZOE (IRE) (19) (CD) Mrs C Dunnett 7 9 3	E J Walsh (5) 2
13	453133	FIRST REBELLION (19) (CD)(D) A Carroll 5 9 2	D Probert 5

BETTING: 5-1 Pearl Noir, 11-2 Danzoe, 6-1 Your Gifted, 13-2 Give Us A Belle, First Rebellion, 15-2 Dancing Juice, 10-1 Louis Vee, 12-1 Aaranyow, 16-1 others.

2.35 DOWNLOAD THE CORAL APP MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS 5). £4,500 added 3YO PLUS 1m 1f 103yds Penalty Value £2,911.

1	00-00	BAILEYS EN PREMIER (FR) (158) C Dwyer 3 9 5	B A Curtis 5
2		KAABER (USA) R Brotherton 3 9 5	T Eaves 2
3		MUSTATZ (USA) N Quinn 3 9 5	S James 9
4	322	NORMAN'S STAR (279) C Dwyer 3 9 5	C Beasley (3) 6
5	06450	RAZOR WIND (IRE) (14) (BF) C Appleby 3 9 5	A Kirby 10
6		THE GAY CAVALIER (32) J Ryan 3 9 5	J Mitchell 11
7	0	VILAZ (179) B Meehan 3 9 5	Hayley Turner 3
8		WESTWOOD HOE J Gosden 3 9 5	R Havlin 7
9		ROXY MADAM (114) Miss M Rowland 5 9 3	R Atkinson (3) 4
10	043224	PANATELLA (14) (BF) J Fanshawe 3 9 0	S W Kelly 1

£8,333 added 4YO PLUS 2m Penalty Value EUR6900.

301	62200-	OSCAR FIANN (IRE) (259) J F Levins 6 11 2	A Ring (7)
302	15F103	LUDDSDENNE (IRE) (14) (D) G Elliott 9 11 0	B J Cooper
303	52-FP2	GLENQUEST (IRE) (23) (CD)(D) S Crawford 11 11 9	A E Lynch
304	00533F	HOLEINTHEWALL BAR (IRE) (28) M Hourigan 6 11 8	A J McNenna (7)
305	0015P/	SEADER (USA) (578) (D) J J Lambie 9 11 7	L A McKenna (7)
306	084521	SIN MIEDO (IRE) (19) (D) Mrs J Harrington 4 11 7	M J Bolger
307	3F-445	MOREOCE (IRE) (22) T Doyle 5 11 6	M P Burke (7)
308	D4-0F4	MYBLUEEYEDGIRL (IRE) (17) (D) Ms G Callaghan 6 11 5	K M Donoghue

309	434-43	REBEL LAKER (IRE) (96) Patrick Martin 5 11 5	D J Benson (5)
310	0000-3	ZIGGER ZAGGER (IRE) (25) (D)(BF) N Meade 5 11 5	P Carberry
311	32P/	INESPERATE (FR) (940) A J Martin 7 11 3	R Walsh
312	40-625	BALKINSTOWN (IRE) (8) (BF) F Flood 4 11 1	M P Walsh
313	44-145	SULTANA BELLE (IRE) (17) (D) S Crawford 6 11 1	A J Fox (5)
314	300000	INDIAN WHISKEY (IRE) (21) J Nash 6 10 11	D J Casey
315	0055	VELOCITY OF LIGHT (59) S Crawford 5 10 11	G N Fox (5)
316	460804	MCLAREN VESLEY (IRE) (11) D M Christie 6 10 8	J J McCarthy
317	533114	OBISPO (IRE) (23) (D) C A McBratney 8 10 8	A P Heskin
318	600P-0	DISEL TEN (IRE) (8) Anthony McCann 4 10 2	Jonathan Moore (7)
319	0-00	KNOCKEA (IRE) (87) E P Harty 4 10 2	N P Madden
320	06-04	MOONUNDERWATER (IRE) (14) R Donohoe 7 10 1	D E Mullins
321	P-06P2	WEST COUNCIL (IRE) (15) J Madden 9 9 12	S Shortall (5)
322	F0U056	SALACIOUS SALLY (IRE) (24) D Kinella 5 9 11	R C Colgan

BETTING: 6-1 Zigger Zagger, 7-1 Luddsdenne, Glenquest, 8-1 Inesperate, Obispo, 12-1 Sin Miedo, Myblueeyedgirl, Holeinthewall Bar, Rebel Laker, Balkinstown, 14-1 others.

1.55 IRISH STALLION FARMS E.B.F. BEGINNERS CHASE. £12,500 added 4YO PLUS 2m 1f Penalty Value EUR10400.

401	P1-P00	ARDMILLAN (IRE) (23) S Crawford 6 11 12	R C Colgan
402	313-0	CAPITAL PURSUIT (IRE) (8) Robert Tyler 5 11 12	P T Enright
403	0014-5	DIVINE RHAPSODY (IRE) (259) P J Rothwell 8 11 12	B T O'Connell
404	31610-	DYSIOS (IRE) (229) (D) D Cullen 6 11 2	R M Power
405	30-160	FESTIVE FELON (IRE) (8) (C) N Meade 7 11 12	P Carberry
406	14P-03	FLAMING DAWN (IRE) (19) E J O'Grady 6 11 12	N P Madden
407	1114-5	LEIGHINMOHR (IRE) (23) J Ferguson 7 11 12	L A McKenna (7)
408	1036-3	MINELLA FIOR (IRE) (21) (C) E P Harty 5 11 12	M P Walsh
409	31-060	OWENS PRIDE (IRE) (15) Michael G Cleary 7 11 12	D E Mullins
410	5Uf-U4	THIRD OPINION (IRE) (25) T J Taffie 6 11 12	A E Lynch
411	1111-1	VACOUTE (FR) (205) (CD) W P Mullins 5 11 12	R Walsh
412	0056-3	VAUTOUR DU NOYER (FR) (14) H de Bromhead 5 11 12	J J Burke (3)

413	11205-	WESTERN BOY (IRE) (208) P A Fahy 5 11 12	A P Crowe
414	31-0	WHITE ARM (FR) (159) A J Martin 5 11 12	A P Heskin
415	31U-1F	THE HOUSEKEEPER (IRE) (189) (BF) David Kelly 7 11 5	M Enright
416	2F24-1	CLARCAM (FR) (42) G Elliott 4 11 0	B J Cooper

BETTING: 4-11 Vautour, 7-1 Clarcam, 8-1 Minella Foru, 10-1 Western Boy, 12-1 Viconte Du Noyer, 16-1 The Housekeeper, 25-1 Flaming Dawn, Third Opinion, 33-1 others.

2.25 LADBROKES TROYTOWN HANDICAP CHASE (0-150) (GRADE B). £83,333 added 4YO PLUS 3m Penalty Value EUR60000.

501	U0F-P	COLBERT STATION (IRE) (207) (D) T M Walsh 10 11 7	N P Madden
502	1421P-	MY MURPHY (IRE) (216) (CD) W J Burke 8 11 7	R M Power
503	30-401	HELLBEREMEMBERED (IRE) (31) (CD) P G Fahy 11 11 4	J J Burke (3)
504	/50-4P	CHICAGO GREY (IRE) (8) (CD) G Elliott 11 11 3	K M Donoghue
505	/P20P-	DOGORA (FR) (231) W P Mullins 5 11 3	R Walsh
506	014P0-	LION NA BEARNAI (IRE) (216) (CD) T Gibney 12 11 2	A E Lynch
507	00226-	PANDORAMA (IRE) (287) (CD) N Meade 11 11 2	P Carberry
508	1213-0	OWEGA STAR (IRE) (21) (C) Peter Fahy 7 11 0	D M Russell
509	4142-1	BLACK BENNY (IRE) (27) J J Broderick 8 10 13	A P Heskin
510	4040-2	ROGUE ANGEL (IRE) (27) (D) M F Morris 6 10 12	B J Cooper
511	F0U5-0	LIVING NEXT DOOR (IRE) (14) (D) A J Martin 8 10 11	B J Geraghty
512	/000-0	LIKE YOUR STYLE (IRE) (14) E P Harty 10 10 10	A J McNamara
513	U21123	ROUGH JUSTICE (IRE) (48) (D) W P Mullins 6 10 10	P Townend
514	11433-	RYE MARTIN (IRE) (332) (D)(BF) C A Murphy 7 10 10	M P Fogarty
515	442U15	BENEMEADE (IRE) (35) N Meade 6 10 9	G N Fox (5)
516	012621	NEARLY NAMA'D (IRE) (57) (C) Ms S Hughes 6 10 9	N P Walsh
517	P0P-1	GROODY HILL (IRE) (19) (CD) C Roche 8 10 7	Jody McCarvey (3)
518	51-016	SUBTLE BEN (IRE) (35) (D) Miss E Doyle 7 10 5	B T O'Connell
519	611123	BOSE IKARD (IRE) (14) (D) N Meade 6 10 4	D O'Regan
520	-52546	SHAMIRAN (IRE) (27) R Sweeney 9 10 3	D E Spaine (3)
521	-62212	THOMOND (IRE) (27) (BF) N Meade 6 10 3	P T Enright
522	410012	VASCO DU MEE (FR) (11) (D)(BF) G Elliott 5 10 3	R C Colgan
523	10-124	BACK OFF MATE (IRE) (42) A L T Moore 6 10 2	D J Casey
524	-F1131	BALBRIGGAN (IRE) (12) (D) G Elliott 7 10 1	K Sexton (5)
525	1P0-33	WRONG TURN (IRE) (14) (D) A J Martin 6 10 1	S Shortall (5)
526	22-560	MORE MADNESS (IRE) (21) (D) T'Brien 7 9 13	RESERVE
527	4P-412	DUSHDREMBRANDT (IRE) (21) (D)(BF) Robert Tyler 8 9 11	RESERVE

BETTING: 8-1 Bose Ikard, 12-1 Rogue Angel, 12-1 Living Next Door, Groody Hill, Back Off Mate, Nearly Nama'd, Black Benny, 14-1 My Murphy, Dogora, Colbert Station, 16-1 others.

2.55 PROUDSTOWN HANDICAP HURDLE (GRADE C). £25,000 added 4YO PLUS 2m 7f Penalty

2	0536	CLAMPDOWN (97) J Tate 9 7	L Morris 12
3	063006	ARTHUR'S WAY (IRE) (26) (BF) Mrs L Williamson 9 7 E Walsh (5) 10	A Kirby 4
4	00553	LAURA B (48) C Wall 9 5	G Baker 2
5	600021	EXCELLING OSCAR (IRE) (6) (D) C Dore 9 5(Bex)	Hayley Turner 9
6	03334	FAST SCAT (USA) (11) P Evans 9 4	A Kirby 4
7	3035	PENLOPE PITSTOP (20) (BF) K Dalgleish 9 3	J Fanning 11
8	6050	CAHAR FAD (IRE) (12) Steph Hollinshead 9 3	J Duern (5) 5
9	032632	SKY STEPS (IRE) (18) P McBride 9 0	G Mahon (7) 8
10	00060	CELESTINE ABBEY (98) J Ryan 8 13	J Mitchell 1
11	066010	NEW ABBEY DANCER (IRE) (7) (C) Miss G Kelleway 8 13 D Probert 6	
12	50600	OROBAS (IRE) (70) H Whittington 8 11	Amy Scott (3) 7

BETTING: 3-1 Sky Steps, 5-1 Laura B, 6-1 Space Sheriff, 7-1 Fast Scat, Excelling Oscar, 8-1 Clampdown, 10-1 Penelope Pitstop, 14-1 New Abbey Dancer, Arthur's Way, 25-1 others.

4.35 LADBROKES HANDICAP (DIV 1) (CLASS 5). £4,500 added 3YO PLUS 7f Penalty Value £2,911.

1	100621	GAMBINO (IRE) (3) (C)(D) J Riches 4 9 10(Bex)	C Beasley (3) 1
2	0-0535	PIDDIE'S POWER (109) Kevin Frost 7 9 7	S Donohoe 3
3	102210	POUR LA VICTOIRE (IRE) (11) (D)(BF) A Carroll 4 9 6	Baker 2
4	050513	RICH AGAIN (IRE) (20) (CD) J Bethlens 5 9 6	J Fanning 9
5	610300	COMRADE BOND (23) (D) M Tompkins 6 9 5	T Clark (5) 7
6	013504	CLASSIC PURSUIT (17) R Harris 3 9 4	G Baker 11
7	46-500	MARCIANO (IRE) (27) Mrs S Smith 4 9 4	T Hamilton 12
8	00-303	DON'T BE (24) Sir M Prescott 4 9 3	L Morris 2
9	300606	AL'S MEMORY (IRE) (11) (CD) P Evans 5 9 3	A Kirby 10
10	314360	KAKAPUKA (11) (D) Mrs A Murphy 7 9 2	A Kirby 10
11	033210	KEENE'S POINTE (17) (CD) Kristin Stubbs 4 8 13	S Gray (5) 6
12	605311	SEWN UP (21) (CD) K Dalgleish 4 8 12	P Makin 4

BETTING: 9-2 Gambino, 6-1 Pour La Victoire, Rich Again, 10-1 Classic Pursuit, 11-1 Sewn Up, 12-1 Don't Be, 14-1 Piddie's Power, 20-1 Comrade Bond, 25-1 others.

5.05 LADBROKES HANDICAP (DIV 2) (CLASS 5).

Value EUR19500.

601	2-3134	THE CRAFTY BUTCHER (IRE) (21) M Hourigan 7 11 10	G N Fox (5)
602	12-211	MAN WITH VAN (IRE) (169) S Crawford 8 11 7	A E Lynch
603	13110-	FOXROCK (IRE) (257) (C)(BF) T M Walsh 6 11 3	A P Heskin
604	5120-6	HAZARIBAN (IRE) (F32) (C) S Fahy 5 11 2	K Sexton (3)
605	0-4040	QUANTITATIVEASING (IRE) (67) (D) E Bolger 9 11 2	N P Madden
606	/35-43	REALT MOR (IRE) (19) (C) G Elliott 9 11 2	D N Russell
607	-13311	GIVE ME A BREAK (IRE) (21) M Hourigan 5 11 1	M P Walsh
608	53PP-6	ARCHIE MEADE (IRE) (195) (D) Daniel Howard 9 10 13	D J Geraghty
609	F-1423	SILVER TASSIE (IRE) (21) (D) N Meade 6 10 13	P Carberry
610	543032	TULSA JACK (IRE) (10) N Meade 5 10 6	D O'Regan
611	/334-4	AKORAKOR (FR) (59) (BF) M F Morris 5 10 5	B J Cooper
612	41U1-1	GALLANT OSCAR (IRE) (4) (CD) A J Martin 8 10 4	R Walsh
613	05P-31	PENCILHIM (IRE) (14) N Cassidy 9 10 4	D J Benson (5)
614	-06211	BURNING ISSUES (IRE) (21) Thomas James 7 10 3	M P Fogarty
615	1023-0	MINI VIC (IRE) (206) Miss E Doyle 10 9 10	A Ring (7)

BETTING: 5-1 Foxrock, Give Me A Break, 11-2 Gallant Oscar, 13-2 Man With Van, 8-1 Realt Mor, 10-1 Tulsa Jack, Burning Issues, Silver Tassie, 12-1 others.

3.25 ITBA FILLIES SCHEME E.B.F. MARES FLAT RACE (LISTED). £29,167 added 4 to 7YO 2m Penalty Value EUR27200.

01	131	LYRICAL THEATRE (IRE) (35) W P Mullins 5 11 9	Mr P W Mullins
02	11-	TWENTYTWO'S TAKEN (IRE) (299) (D) S Crawford 6 11 9	Mr Steven Crawford
03	4-01	EMCON (IRE) (21) (D) W J Austin 5 11 6	Miss J M Mangan
04	12-2U4	JENNY'S MELODY (IRE) (22) B Arthey 5 11 6	Mr N M Kelly
05	231-	STAR COUNSEL (IRE) (411) Edmond Kent 6 11 6	C M Motherway
06	1-	JOSEPHINE MARCUS (IRE) (226) (D) N Meade 4 11 3	Mr J P Harrington
07	601	PRESENTING MAHLER (IRE) (14) (D) J Ryan 4 11 3	Ms G Ryan
08	05-5	ARISE AND GO NOW (IRE) (14) E Cawley 6 11 2	Mr J E Flynn
09	5	BELLE OF THE MOOR (IRE) (22) (BF) Mrs J Harrington 5 11 2	Miss E Cawley
10	P/22-	KILLULTAGH SARAH (IRE) (251) C A McBratney 6 11 2	Mr N M McParlan
11		PAULEEN CAULIN (IRE) (24) P Nolan 5 11 2	Mr M N Doran
12	0	SELECTIVE HEARING (IRE) (198) Paul Nolan 5 11 2	Mr R P Quinlan
13	6FF-21	THE TINKER MOLLY (IRE) (29) C Bowe 6 11 2	D R Lavery
14		BONNY KATE (IRE) N Meade 4 10 13	Ms N Carberry
15	20	ALL YOU NEED (IRE) (152) (BF) Paul Nolan 4 10 13	Mr F Maguire
16	0032	MA GARRETT (IRE) (15) J W Nicholson 4 10 13	Mr D J Mullins
17	52	LYRICAL THEATRE (IRE) (14) (BF) Ms S Hughes 4 10 13	Mr J K King

BETTING: 11-4 Lyrical Theatre, 4-1 Twentytwo's Taken, 5-1 Josephine Marcus, 10-1 Side Saddle, 12-1 Bonny Kate, 14-1 Presenting Mahler, Ma Garrett, Jenny's Melody, 16-1 others.

Monday's runners

£4,500 added 3YO PLUS 7f Penalty Value £2,911.

3	664001	QUEEN AGGIE (IRE) (17) (CD) A Carroll 4 9 6	G Downing (12) 5
4	565401	BE ROYALE (6) (CD) M Appleby 4 9 5(Bex)	A Rawlinson (5) 11
5	220103	SHADES OF SILK (17) A Gifford 3 9 4	C Beasley (3) 7
6	631500	HILL OF DREAMS (IRE) (28) J Gallagher 5 9 4	P Cosgrave 3
7	512103	HEARTS OF SILK (47) D Gallagher 5 9 3	J Haynes (3) 5
8	210684	THE KEMPERER (IRE) (24) (D) G Moss 3 9 3	A Kirby 8
9	600030	RANDOM (CD) (17) A Gifford 3 9 2	S Dowling 10
10	000300	BOGSGN (IRE) (45) (CD) Kristin Stubbs 4 9 0	T Javes 2
11	401500	BERTIE BLU BOY (25) (CD) Mrs L Williamson 6 8 13	M Dwyer 4
12	630300	TWO SHADES OF GREY (IRE) (28) R Fahey 3 8 11	T Hamilton 9

BETTING: 31-Queen Aggie, 9-2 Be Royale, 5-1 Shades of Silk, 13-2 Shamhaearth, 10-1 Malaysian Boleh, Heartsang, 14-1 Random, 1-6 Bogsgn, Hill Of Dreams

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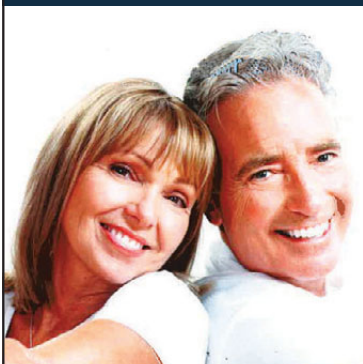
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Arsenal	11	2	3	0	10	6	2	2	2	9	7	17
Everton	12	2	2	2	12	12	2	3	1	10	7	17
Man Utd	11	4	1	1	11	5	0	3	2	6	9	16
Stoke	12	2	1	3	6	7	2	2	2	7	8	15
Liverpool	11	2	2	2	6	6	2	0	3	8	9	14
Tottenham	11	2	0	4	7	8	2	2	1	7	8	14
W.B.A.	12	1	3	2	10	10	2	1	3	3	7	13
Sunderland	12	1	4	1	7	7	1	3	2	5	12	13
Hull	11	1	2	2	7	8	1	3	2	6	7	11
A. Villa	11	1	1	3	3	8	2	1	3	2	8	11
Leicester	12	1	4	1	10	9	1	0	5	1	9	10
Burnley	12	1	2	3	4	9	1	2	3	4	11	10
Crystal P	11	1	1	3	5	8	1	2	3	9	12	9
Q.P.R.	12	2	2	2	9	8	0	0	6	2	15	8

SkyBet Championship

Blackburn	2	Leeds Utd.	1
Rhodes 71, 88 pen		Doukara 33	
HT 0-1		Att 21,432	
Blackpool	1	Bolton	1
Murphy 75		Lee 82	
HT 0-0		Att 12,181	
CHERRIES	2	Ipswich	2
Kermorgant 2		T Bishop 50	
Fitchie 54		Murphy 76	
HT 1-0		Att 11,115	
Charlton	0	Millwall	0
HT 0-0		Att 19,189	
Huddersfield	0	Sheff Wed	0
HT 0-0		Att 14,389	
Norwich	3	Brighton	3
Howson 38		Saltor 33	
Martin 49		LuaLua 66	
Hooper 85		Adrian Colunga 77 pen	
HT 1-1		Att 26,379	
Rotherham	0	Birmingham	1
HT 0-0		Donaldson 32	
Watford	1	Derby City	2
Munari 67		Att 10,937	
HT 0-1			
Wigan	1	Middlesbro	1
Maloney 24		Bryson 81	
HT 1-0		Att 17,421	
Wolves	0	Nottm For	3
HT 0-0		Barnford 58	
		Att 16,347	
		Assombalonga 65	
		Fryatt 68	
		Lansbury 83	
		Att 25,513	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Derby City	18	5	3	1	20	8	5	2	2	15	9	35
CHERRIES	18	5	2	2	15	10	3	3	2	20	8	32
Middlesbro	18	4	3	2	16	6	5	2	2	11	7	32
Ipswich	18	6	2	1	14	6	2	5	2	13	13	31
Brentford	18	5	3	3	14	10	4	1	4	12	14	31
Blackburn	18	5	3	1	17	11	3	3	2	12	14	30
Watford	18	5	3	1	21	11	3	2	4	10	10	29
Nottm For	18	4	3	2	18	13	3	4	2	11	10	28
Charlton	18	4	5	0	11	7	2	5	2	9	11	28
Norwich	18	3	5	1	16	11	4	1	4	12	11	28
Wolves	18	5	2	2	11	9	2	4	3	11	16	27
Cardiff	18	7	0	2	18	11	0	5	4	5	11	26
Sheff Wed	18	1	5	3	3	8	3	5	1	9	6	22
Huddersfield	18	3	4	2	12	11	2	2	5	13	20	21
Reading	18	5	1	3	17	11	1	2	6	6	18	21
Leeds Utd	18	4	3	2	12	8	1	2	6	9	18	20
Fulham	18	4	2	3	14	7	1	2	6	14	26	19
Millwall	18	3	3	3	13	13	1	4	4	6	11	19
Birmingham	18	2	3	4	7	17	2	4	3	8	12	19
Brighton	18	2	5	2	9	9	1	4	4	11	14	18
Bolton	18	4	2	3	16	12	1	1	7	5	16	18
Rotherham	18	3	2	4	9	13	1	4	4	6	12	18
Wigan	18	2	6	1	12	8	1	2	6	7	15	17
Blackpool	18	1	2	6	5	12	0	3	6	7	18	8

SkyBet League One

Bradford	1	Gillingham	1
League 56 og		German 90	
HT 0-0		Att 12,434	

Bristol C	0	Preston	1
HT 0-1		Robinson 28	
Chesterfield	2	Barnsley	1
Doyle 42, 58		Treacy 85	
HT 1-0		Att 8,544	
Colchester	0	Coventry	1
HT 0-0		Madine 74	
Crawley	2	Scunthorpe	2
Leacock 76		Madden 26	
McLeod 80 pen		Taylor 55	
HT 0-1		Att 2,178	
Fleetwood Tn	0	Walsall	1
HT 0-1		Sawyers 35	
Leyton O	4	Crewe	1
Plasmati 23		Grant 70	
Dagnall 35			
Cox 61			
Mooney 86			
HT 2-0		Att 5,516	
M K Dons	1	Port Vale	0
Baker 3			
HT 1-0		Att 12,007	
Notts Cnty	1	Yeovil	2
Petrasso 63		Clarke 84, 88	
HT 0-0		Att 7,746	
Peterboro	1	Swindon	2
Newell 90		Williams 33	
HT 0-1		Obika 47	
Rochdale	1	Doncaster	3
Done 8		Bennett 25	
HT 1-1		Robinson 86	
Sheff Utd	1	Oldham	1
Campbell-Ryce 63		Main 90	
HT 0-1		Att 3,229	
		Forde 16	
		Att 19,767	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Bristol C	18	6	2	1	16	8	4	4	1	17	11	36
Swindon	18	5	3	1	19	11	5	2	2	16	9	35
Preston	18	5	3	1	18	11	5	1	3	12	8	34
M K Dons	15	6	1	1	18	7	3	2	2	12	9	30
Sheff Utd	17	4	2	2	10	7	5	1	3	14	13	30
Notts Cnty	17	3	2	4	12	12	5	3	0	12	4	29
Peterboro	18	4	2	3	14	12	4	1	4	12	9	27
Oldham	18	5	3	1	15	10	1	6	2	10	10	27
Rochdale	17	3	2	4	11	9	5	0	3	19	10	26
Fleetwood	18	4	4	1	11	7	3	0	6	8	10	25
Chesterfield	18	4	3	2	13	11	2	3	4	12	14	24
Bradford	18	2	2	5	10	14	4	3	2	13	10	23
Barnsley	17	3	1	4	17	18	3	3	3	10	10	22
Walsall	18	3	4	2	9	5	2	3	4	6	11	22
Port Vale	18	4	2	3	14	12	2	2	5	9	13	22
Doncaster	16	1	3	4	5	11	5	0	3	12	12	21
Crawley	18	4	2	3	10	14	1	4	4	8	14	21
Coventry	18	4	2	3	12	13	1	3	5	9	15	20
Leyton O	18	1	3	5	10	14	3	4	2	13	15	19
Gillingham	18	4	2	2	12	10	3	3	6	15	18	19
Colchester	18	2	2	5	10	14	2	3	4	14	14	17
Yeovil	17	1	4	4	5	13	3	1	5	9	15	17
Scunthorpe	17	2	1	5	7	14	2	3	4	14	18	16
Crewe	18	3	1	5	8	16	1	2	6	6	20	15

SkyBet League Two

	HOME						AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Wycombe	18	4	3	2	11	9	6	2	1	17	7	35	
Burton Alb	18	6	1	2	11	7	5	1	3	14	14	35	
Luton	18	6	1	2	11	4	4	3	2	9	8	34	
Shrewsbury	18	8	1	0	21	3	2	2	5	8	12	33	
Southend	18	4	3	2	9	5	1	3	1	10	10	31	
Plymouth	18	7	1	1	16	2	2	2	5	5	8	30	
Bury	18	7	0	2	17	8	3	3	4	10	13	30	
Newport C	18	4	4	1	16	11	3	3	3	9	8	28	
Exeter	18	3	4	2	13	12	4	2	3	11	11	27	
POMPEY	18	6	2	1	18	6	1	3	5	13	13	26	
Morecambe	18	4	2	3	9	10	4	0	5	10	10	26	
Acc Stanley	18	6	1	2	15	10	2	1	6	11	19	26	
Cambridge	18	5	0	4	18	10	2	3	4	11	13	24	
Northampton	18	5	1	3	17	12	2	2	5	10	13	24	
Stevenage	18	6	0	3	17	10	1	3	5	9	16	24	
Wimbledon	18	4	3	2	15	11	2	3	4	8	14	24	
Mansfield	18	5	1	3	10	8	1	3	5	5	13	22	
Cheltenham	18	3	3	9	11	3	1	5	8	16	22	22	
Oxford Utd	18	3	3	10	8	2	2	5	9	15	20	21	
York	18	0	6	3	6	9	3	3	3	11	13	18	
Dagenham	18	3	0	6	12	15	2	3	4	11	15	18	
Carlisle	18	4	2	3	15	14	1	1	7	8	20	18	
Tranmere	18	1	4	4	9	12	1	2	6	7	13	12	
Hartlepool	18	1	3	5	6	14	2	0	7	7	17	12	

Acc Stanley	2	Cambridge	1
Mingola 34,72		Nelson 90	
HT 1-0		Att 1,364	
Burton Albion	1	Luton	0
Edwards 47			
HT 0-0		Att 4,772	
Bury	1	Newport County	3
Rose 62		O'Connor 3,430	
HT 2-2		Att 3,166	
Cheltenham	1	Wycombe	4
Elliott 3		Cowan-Hall 4	
		Craig 37	
HT 1-2		Jacobson 70	
Dagenham	4	Carlisle	2
Bingham 23		McClure 90	
Chambers 24,46		Att 2,833	
Cureton 39		Asamoah 16	
HT 3-1		Grainger 53	
Exeter	3	Shrewsbury	2
Nichols 46,90		Att 2,097	
Wheeler 75		Collins 13,34	
HT 0-2		Att 3,933	